

TWENTY-EIGHT PAGES

THE NEW YORK DRAMATIC MIRROR

VOL. XLV., No. 1,160.

NEW YORK : SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1904.

PRICE TEN CENTS.

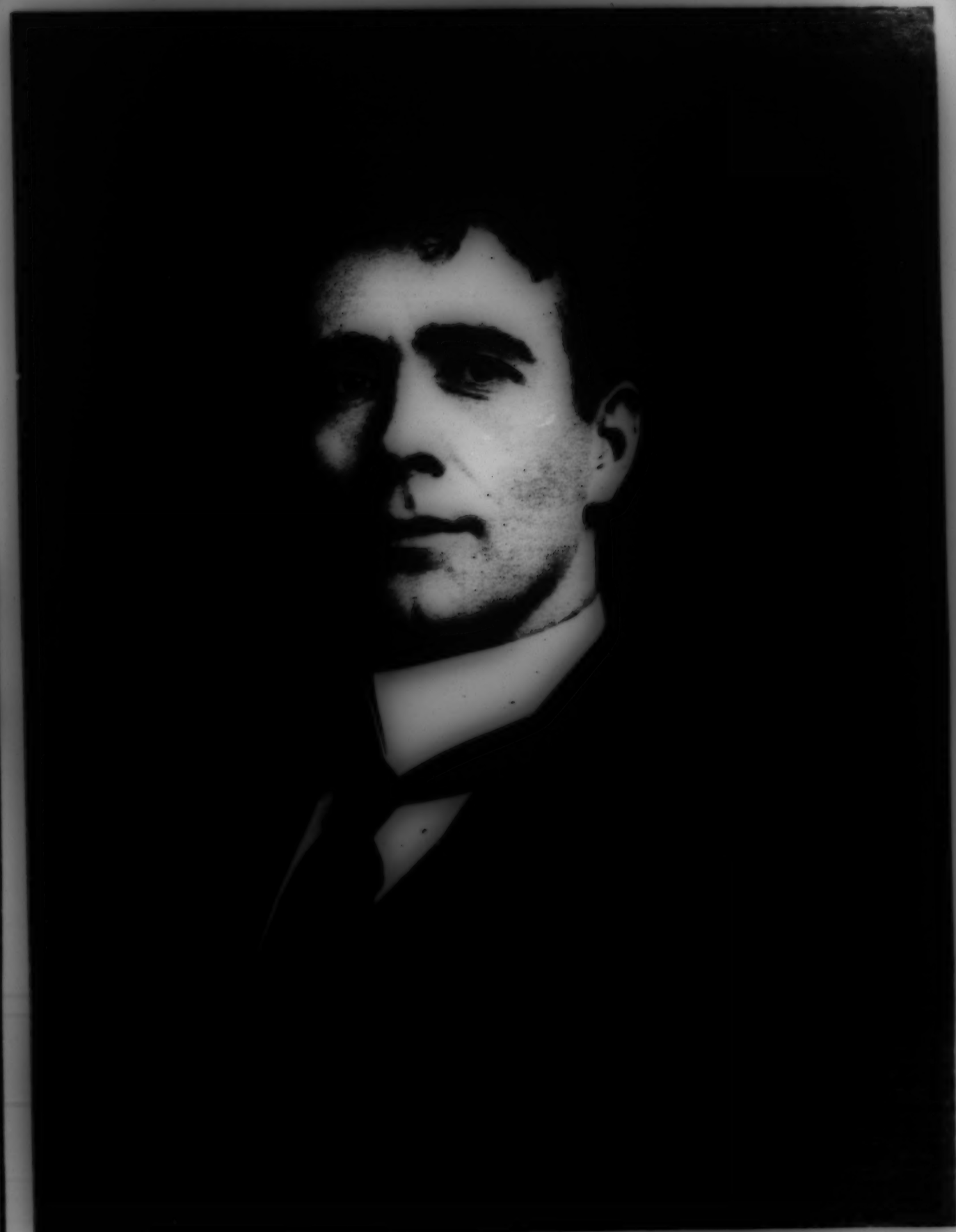


Photo by Giffa, Wheeling, W. Va.

DANIEL P. RYAN.

THE MATINEE GIRL.



It was like meeting a friend in a strange city to see the familiar faces of William Gillette and May Irwin along the Boston streets as they were last week.

They were the only real friendly things in town. I should imagine that a Boston audience would chill the very marrow in the bones of actors appearing there. It is the coldest place this side of the North Pole.

It is a hoodoo city to the Matinee Girl, who is always caught in a blizzard there. I have a little way of leaving New York in a tailor gown with a bunch of violets and a chiffon collar and arriving in the Massachusetts capital to find the cubs on runners, snow on the ground and car drivers done up in fur coats and the mercury frozen in the thermometers.

I often wonder if New York affects people with the inhospitable feeling of unwelcome that Boston gives one? Philadelphia and Washington never make you feel that way. Washington's atmosphere is positively alluring and you can't go through a hotel corridor without getting a warm, cheery smile from some senator or congressman.

Philadelphia gives you the impression that there is a great deal going on there that don't get in the papers. If you arrive at midnight you find the orchestra playing at the Walton and are likely to have cards sent up to your room up to 1 A. M.

In fact, I recollect getting there once at this hour and the band was playing a waltz and it seemed the gayest place I had ever struck. There was a tap at the door, and expecting a bell boy or a chambermaid I said "Who is it?" gently, like that.

For it's a chambermaid of course she can come in, but if it's a boy you hold the door on a two-inch crack and expect him to get a foot wide ice water pitcher through it.

But this time a voice replied pleasantly, "Me," and peering out I recognized an old college chum who attended a co-educational university with me years ago.

"Well," I said; "How did you get up here? Why didn't you send up your card?"

"I saw your name on the register, and it was so late I thought I'd just run up."

"Well, you can just run down again," I said, "and come around at breakfast time."

He explained in the morning with a little hauteur that it was considered the proper thing in Philadelphia to drop in and see a friend on arriving in the town, and I asked him if the Philadelphians carried plans of the hotels so that they could find rooms by instinct, without a boy to lead them, but he could give no lucid explanation to this.

It always gave me the impression that Philadelphia was a friendly, unconventional sort of place. But Boston gives me a chill.

Last week on arriving there and finding the usual change of temperature which made New York seem like a winter resort in comparison, I was shown with chattering teeth into a beautiful, luxurious room, and the first thing my eyes fell upon was a picture of Oliver Cromwell framed in black ebony. Fancy Oliver Cromwell! You remember the face, I suppose? It's one of those things that you can't forget. And framed in ebony!

Well, this was depressing enough, but the atmosphere of the room was like a cold storage house.

"Shall I turn on the steam?" asked the boy.

"I should," I replied. "And throw a handkerchief over that face—or turn it to the wall or something, please."

He turned on the radiator, but it was one of the kind that didn't radiate. I froze quietly for half an hour waiting to hear it gurgle, and then I rang and asked for my bill.

When they heard the trouble they said they would build a fire on the hearth. Then a porter came in with a lot of ornate logs and fixed them and lit paper under them, but they only steamed. Gradually they began to smoke; but the smoke at least was warm, so I sat there in the mist and felt as though I were living in an Ibsen play. He is very fond of those cloudy effects.

By and by there was excitement in the corridor and knocks on the door and I opened it and found negligee ladies there.

"We smelled smoke," they said; "is there a fire in here?"

"No," I replied, "there is not. That is just what's the matter. I might endure Oliver Cromwell in a decently heated room, but I refuse to stand for him on ice."

They looked at me in a shocked, scared way. They didn't seem to gather who Oliver Cromwell was and didn't exactly understand about his being there, I suppose.

But at all events, Boston is the only city that I was not only frozen out of, but smoked out of, and I am sorry for the actors who have to face the Boston audiences.

That is why, when people ask me how I like Boston, I always reply that I think it a quaint town. "Quaint," like "charming," is a word you can take any way you like, but "quaint" is newer, so I use it.

We have become so thoroughly accustomed to queer French farces at the Madison Square

Theatre that it is almost startling to find Willie Collier there in a lively, amusing play like *On the Quiet*.

I never go in through that queer switched off doorway but I expect to see Fritz Williams enacting in pajamas or making himself utterly ridiculous; not that he is ridiculous by nature, like this Harlan, but he simply has to. It's in the day's work.

And Isabel Irving trying to act a devilish French woman with seventeen lovers and looking all the time like an angel on a Christmas card.

Fritz Williams and Isabel Irving always remind me of the babes in the wood or the princes in the tower, or any of those historic young characters that were always up against it.

I should like to see magazine articles, written by both of them, on "Roles that I have played in French farces, and what I think of them." I haven't seen the new one at the Lyceum, but some one told me that Mr. Williams comes in singed.

I have seen him most every way but singed, and I am going next Saturday afternoon, to study his conception of a singed man. That's something that will take fine acting! Imagine trying to look as a singed man would feel?

But the Collier play is a decided relief from the silly French farce and the star, I prophesy, is going to develop into another Nat Goodwin—funny and never vulgar, with a serious face that will be worth a fortune to him when he gets into more important comedy parts.

There's nothing I like better than giving out bright futures, and in this case Willie—and by the way, like Cissy Loftus, he's now assumed the more dignified name of William—has an individuality that no actor even approaches, and individuality is a rare gem nowadays.

Augustus Thomas and Clyde Fitch are running a race in the writing of bright dialogue. Fitch is frothy, but Thomas is funny.

The line about the English duke is good enough to remember. One man says, "I think him slow."

"Slow?"

"Yes, don't you think him slow?"

"Well, how slow do you think he is?"

"I don't think he's started."

At the Florodora matinee a week ago, there was an innovation. During an intermission the orchestra played selections from the opera, and when the "Tell me, Pretty Maiden" number was reached the audience began to hum the tune. By degrees the hum developed into a chorus and finally the entire house was singing the melody gayly in time to the music.

This song is certainly one of the prettiest things to see and to hear that we have had in an age. It never tires one and the members of the sextet appear to enjoy it just as much as their listeners and auditors.

When the Matinee Girl first saw this opera during the first weeks of its production in New York, she noted the cleverness of the young people who sang this song so prettily.

They were all somewhat amateurish, and strangely enough, in this particular instance it was an added charm. Since then, Joe Walsh, one of the dapper clerks, who is the happy possessor of a splendid voice, has moved up to a real part in the Burlesquer, where he has more opportunities for acting and singing than those afforded him in the Casino's popular opera.

In fact, since the first night the pretty maidens and the clerks have changed their individuality quite often with the exception of Margaret Walker, who leads the young women still, and one or two of the young men whose success has given them a confidence which they lacked at first.

There are any number of pretty girls in the chorus of Florodora who are prepared to go on as pretty maidens at a moment's notice in case the originals do not show up.

They have caught the town, and it is a hard old town to catch! They say the bathtubs in their flats are full of orchids all the time. Wouldn't that make you think? Just to go on and sing a little song and bob your head! And orchids five dollars apiece.

THE MATINEE GIRL.

A GREATER MISTRESS NELL.

A new and more elaborate production of *Mistress Nell* will be made for Henrietta Crossman's engagement at Wallack's Theatre, beginning April 29. Taking advantage of the greater stage room at this theatre, Manager Maurice Campbell is having two new scenes painted, that will be larger and handsomer than those used at the Bijou and the Savoy. The ballroom scene will be made a feature, a large number of extra people appearing in it. The costumes, too, will be new. Mr. Campbell also contemplates some changes in the cast.

LA SHELLE'S THEATRE.

Kirk La Sells closed contracts last week for the erection of his theatre at the corner of Broadway and Forty-seventh Street, which will be called the Colonial and will be opened within a year. The Central Realty Bond and Trust Company will turn the property over to Mr. La Sells as soon as the work of building is under way. The land cost \$200,000 and the building will cost \$500,000.

SMITH SIGNS NEW STARS.

W. G. Smith, whose management of William Collier will terminate at the end of this season, last week signed contracts with E. D. MacLean and Odette Tyler to star there next season in a repertoire consisting of *King John*, *Coriolanus*, and *The School for Scandal*. Special and elaborate productions will be made of each play and a strong company engaged.

ENGAGEMENTS.

Harry Gwynette, for A Morning Wife.
Louis Van Wierhoff and William Adams, with Whitney and Knicker's *Que Vads Western*.

Er Jacob Litt, for *The Price of Peace*: Minnie Seligman, May Buckley, Ann Bartholomew, Marion Elmore, Mabel Taliferro, Arthur Forrest, Henry Bergman, Charles Cherry, Fred Thorne, and W. T. Carleton.

With J. K. Emmet and Lottie Gilson in *Fritz in a Mad House*: David Rogers, Ida Lewis, Gilbert Fitzgerald and Max Campbell.

Volande Bion, re-engaged with Corse Payton, to play *Mary in the English*.

Jane Payton, with Oris Skinner, replacing Grace Filkins.

For *The Price of Peace*: Charles Kent, G. Harrison Hunter, Harry Roberts, Frederick Roberts, and Charles Charters.

Violet Voltaire, with Louis James and Kathryn Kidder.

W. F. Munster, as business manager with Daniel Friedman's Stock company, on tour.

Mary Hampton, for the leading female role in *Human Spiders*.

Pearle Bight, as Bossy, *A Texas Steer*.

MORE ACTORS IN THE WAR.

The publication in *The Mirror* of Feb. 23 of an article by Judge W. E. Horton, of Mr. Clemens, Mich., entitled "Actors in the Army," has brought forth two communications that show that Mr. Horton did not mention all the players that have answered the muster-roll. Of course, Mr. Horton gave only such names as he recollect and did not pretend to be complete.

Giles Shine, in a letter to *The Mirror*, largely adds to the roster of actors that were in the war. Says Mr. Shine:

"Allow me to submit a few names of actors who served in the army and navy during the Civil War: Major-General Nathaniel P. Banks, who also served many years in Congress, and was Speaker of the House of Representatives; Major-General Dan Macanley, later Mayor of Indianapolis for three or four terms; his brother, Colonel Jack Macanley, of Macanley's Theatre, Louisville, who, I think, was a lieutenant-colonel at twenty-one years of age; Brigadier-General George W. Gile, who was a member of the Actors' Order of Friendship at his death; Major Willis Page, of Philadelphia, who was brevetted on the battlefield for bravery; he has a great war record. Captain William Harris, also an actor, was advanced from the ranks, which is sufficient indication of his record. His brother, Hamilton Harris, was a drummer boy and a prisoner of Andersonville. Lieutenant Horne, brother of James A. Horne, was, I believe, the youngest commissioned officer in the United States Army. W. J. Le Moine, of excellent record as an actor, is equalled by his record as a soldier. Lieutenant Matt. R. Snyder, U. S. N., was at Vicksburg during the siege and has a good record. John M. Barron, of Baltimore, an actor and manager, was an engineer in the navy during the Civil War. Sergeant John Gorman, who has a good record, is now at the hospital, named for life from an accident that occurred at the American Theatre a few weeks ago. W. P. Paul, who died recently, was a sailor during the Civil War. Milton Nobles was a high private and did good service.

Major Frank Bangs served in the Confederate army and has a splendid record for bravery. After the war he went to the National Theatre, Washington, D. C., as leading man. The resident population of the city were all Southern and endeavored to control the entire house on the occasion of his first appearance. Knowing there would be a demonstration, some of "official and Yankee-Washington" gained entrance. The gallery gods were all rebel to the core. When Major Bangs came on the stage the "Yanks" started to hiss. But the thunders of applause from all over the house, and the rebel yells soon drowned the hisses, and the Major was allowed to proceed. Lieutenant Theodore Hamilton also has a good record as a fighter for the "lost cause." The late Charles H. Crisp was an actor before he became successively Judge, Member of Congress and Speaker of the House of Representatives. He, too, was in the Confederate Army. Charles Wyndham, the English actor, was a surgeon in the United States army during the same war, and is a member of the G. A. R. The late Harry Meredith was a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps and served with Farragut through the Civil War. There were many others, no doubt, that I do not recall."

James L. Clark, writing from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Bath, N. Y., says:

"Here are the names of the actors who served in the Union Army during the rebellion of whom I have personal knowledge: Robert Johnston, captain of Twenty-fifth New York Infantry; Charles T. Smith, at one time manager at Buffalo, Rochester, Troy, Albany, New York, and Columbus, lieutenant and quartermaster of an Ohio cavalry regiment; Thomas Finn, of the same regiment; William Harris, captain in the New York cavalry; Thomas Herndon, lieutenant in the New York Infantry; James Oates, lieutenant in signal corps on General Thomas' staff; Charles Walters, captain in New York cavalry, killed at Brandy Station, Va.; William B. Hamblin, captain of Virginia cavalry; Frank Carter, lieutenant in Massachusetts artillery; Thomas De Walden, chaplain of Twenty-fifth New York Infantry, well known at the old Park Theatre; Robert McWade, lieutenant in the New York Infantry; John Jack, captain of Pennsylvania Infantry; Michael Lacy, of an Ohio regiment, died in Dayton Soldiers' Home; Nate Salisbury, member of an Illinois battery; William Cogswell, lieutenant in New Jersey Infantry; George Brydon, died at Soldiers' Home, Bath, N. Y.; Thomas Leigh, lieutenant Thirty-eighth New York Infantry and aide-de-camp to General Hobart Ward.

OBS.

Daniel Sully is rewriting *The Corner Grocery* for Pat Carroll.

Sueschind and Behfeldt, the new lessees of the Lexington Avenue Opera House, announce a season of Summer opera at that house. William Parry is to manage the company.

Frank Sanford, of Across the Pacific, was accidentally shot during a recent performance of the play, and is now a patient in St. Vincent's Hospital. His injury is not serious, and he will be out in a week's time.

Hinwatha Park Casino, Mount Vernon, Ohio, will be opened next Summer by John D. Torrey, of the Woodward, who has leased it from P. B. Chase. Mr. Torrey means to conduct a season of fourteen weeks for repertoire and stock companies, and will give his personal attention to the stage, assisted by Fred Glosner.

Mrs. Theodore Johnston has been compelled by illness to retire from Walter E. Perkins' *The Man from Mexico* company, and is at a hospital in Boston, where she is now convalescent.

Marion Longfellow, late of Augustin Daly's musical company, is now successfully playing Sallie with Walter E. Perkins in *The Man from Mexico*. Her former role of Nettle in Mr. Perkins' company is now capably acted by Mabel Spencer.

Franklin Tennin, Mile, Olitzka, Signor Cremonini, Signor Campanari, and M. Plancan will appear in a concert at the Waldorf Astoria on March 25.

F. E. Berquist, of Galesburg, Ill., who successfully managed the Auditorium, of that city, for the nine years ending in July, 1899, has again leased that theatre for five years beginning April 1, 1902, and will personally manage it.

H. G. Carlton has closed with Our New Minister to assume the management of the Effie Carlton company.

On Feb. 23, at Naugatuck, Conn., Manager Seaville, of the Clark Seaville company, presented for the first time on any stage his new three-act comedy, entitled *My Uncle's Holiday*. The piece is reported to have made a hit, and Mr. Seaville will keep it in his repertoire.

The tall clock that stands against the wall in the kitchen scene of *The Fairy Farm* once belonged to the grandfather of Charlotte Cushman, it is said, and was purchased from the famous actress' sister by Manager Wallack, who proposes at the close of the season to place it in his residence.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Foreman, now with the Siberia company, will go to London in July to appear in their specialties there.

Joseph Phisior is painting the three "sensational" scenes for *From Scotland Yard*, Arthur Shirley and Benjamin Landeck's successful play, that will have its first presentation in this country this Spring.

George H. Broadhurst has decided to turn his latest farce, *The House that Jack Built*, into a musical comedy. It is now in course of reconstruction and will be sent on the road next season, with a well-known singing comedienne in the leading role, a male quartette and a female chorus.

Broadhurst Brothers have leased the Western rights in *The Wrong Mr. Wright* to John J. Coleman, and the Eastern rights to John Allison, for next season.

A. H. Chamberlyn has announced that he may produce here *The Beauty and the Beast*, the last *Deary Lane* pantomime, and Miss Simplicity, the new *Barnet-Barnet* extravaganza.

Shaw and Thompson have sold the Shaw Theatre, Hutchinson, Kan., to Fred W. Casner, who has appointed W. A. Lee manager. Mr. Lee has been manager of the Hutchinson Opera House for many years, and will now direct both theatres.

On the recent engagement of Mrs. Leslie Carter in *Zaza* at the Salt Lake Theatre, the Jones Hammer Advertising Agency issued an unusually handsome souvenir programme, printed in colors, and illustrated profusely.

Louis Dittmar's comic opera, *Father Knickerbocker*, will be produced at Midland Beach on July 1.

Casey's Wife will next season be under the management of Fred Follett, who has secured the rights from the author, Robert J. Donnelly, and will present it with the original scenery and a strong cast.



PAT ROONEY

Brown's in Town could not be sold at popular prices and was really worth less than many of our dollar attractions. A Strange Land 10. For a while 11-13. The Sorrows of Satan 14-16.

JOHN B. RINGWALT

AT 954 附錄

ARIZONA.

ARKANSAS.

CALIFORNIA.

COLORADO.

CONNECTICUT.

DELAWARE

Futrell, author

fair and pleased audience.

ILLINOIS

FAIRVIEW.—OPERA HOUSE. (Philp manager): Peck's Bad Boy Feb. 27 (planned)

Write, or Stock Ho

1

PATHEON. COLUMBIA THEATRE. George F. Hopper, manager: Come Payton's Comedy co. in The notecorn. Head Kierke, The Three Musketeers, The Silver Lining, Law of the Land, and The Two orphans. pl used, large houses. Feb. 25-2. Midnight in Charleston 4-6, medium business; co. fair. A. J. Robinson 7-9, Very Bu. Note co. 11-16. Waitt's Comedy co. 18-23.

18. COLUMBIA LLOYD THEATRE. (M. Reis, manager.) *Behind T. Powers*, 28; large house. *Sherlock Holmes*, 1. *Entenanced*, 20; good house. The superb acting of F. J. Morgan, Elizabeth Taylor, Eleanor Robson, and the others of the cast more than made up for the weakness of the play. *J. W. Carter*, 2; 5. 5. In *The Blue Flag*, *Knobs of Tennessee*, *R. Van Winkle*, and *My Uncle* from New York, 2.

THE FOREIGN STAGE.

LONDON.

Lowenfeld and His Apollo Theatre—A Queer Little History of Plays and Players.

(Special Correspondence of The Mirror.)

LONDON, Feb. 25.

There is a story that the London theatrical season has been started. Lowenfeld's opening of his Apollo Theatre, the Apollo, with *The Belle of Bohemia*, has been the subject of much comment. The interest was largely increased by the fact that the manager, Mr. Lowenfeld, had determined to take no money at the doors, but to submit *The Belle of Bohemia* to an audience entirely invited free, gratis and for nothing. By this action Lowenfeld, imitating more thoroughly than hitherto the somewhat lonely, but not always lucky, efforts of the late Alexander Henderson on first nights, not only somewhat annoyed many so-called gilded-edge first-nighters, but caused extreme consternation among the humbler, but paying, kind of playgoers. Moreover, as I hinted when just about to mail last week, the members of the new playgoing club, called the O. P., had convened a kind of indignation meeting by way of considering this Lowenfeldian first-night tactics. Although an O. P. member myself, I could not see that much good would be arrived at by such a meeting, and I certainly thought, and said, that it would have certainly been better to hold such a meeting after this defunct first night, rather than before. With regard to Lowenfeld's action in thus limiting his first-night audience to his personal friends and customers, together with their sisters, their cousins and their aunts, I hold that a theatrical manager may, in a manner, conduct his property in whatever manner he likes, so long as he does not offend public decency. Yet methinks my friend Lowenfeld was unwise in adopting such a plan.

As for the O. P. meeting at the beginning of the week, although we had a lively two hours' talk, nothing came of it, nor did anything come of it, but a resolution expressing regret at Lowenfeld's arrogant want of confidence in the paying public. A good many remarks were made as to the probable influence upon the press on this said first-night, by the invited members thereof having to judge the players in such an atmosphere of friendliness, when no dissident voice or critical remark could, of course, be forthcoming, at least not "aloud," as they say on the stage. Nor of course it is absurd to suppose that any dramatic critic having any honesty of purpose or any mind of his own can be virtually influenced either by the applause or hisses of a first-night audience. Such critics bring with him, or is paid by his employer to bring with him, what the late Gladstone would have called "an open mind." Occasionally there is some influence caused by atmosphere, as one may say, but as a rule your critic, if he is worth his salt, will express freely his own opinion of the play, while chronicling the fact as to whether the audience liked it or not. At the same time it has to be confessed that some few of the newspaper notices of *The Belle of Bohemia* and its interpreters have evidently been afraid to let themselves go too much in the direction of praise, lest it should seem that they had been influenced by the extreme and only to be expected enthusiasm of the invited audience at what Lowenfeld describes as his inauguration performance.

Happily, up to the moment of writing, nothing serious has happened. *The Belle of Bohemia*, although not instinct with monumental genius, either as regards libretto or score, it is a bright and merry mixture that seems likely to delight audiences at this lively playhouse for many months to come. Harry K. Smith has served up the old Dromio idea in lively fashion. Among those who are already very strong favorites are Dave Lewis and D. L. Don as Rudolph and Adolph, George A. Schiller as Lawyer Dolphin Shark, John Hyams as the Bowery Boy, James A. Furey as Dr. Pillsbury, S. Solomon as Ludwig Bolander Solo Cornetist, Charles A. Maynard as Yellow Plush, and that strong favorite, Richard Carle, as Mugsy Cuffs. The ladies all deserve praise, especially Marie George as Katie, Anna Laughlin as Angelina Sharke, Silvia Thorne as Mamie, the snake charmer, and Marie Dainton as Paquita.

Another production of interest to American as well as to English show samplers was that given by your well-known Gotham Quartette at the London Pavilion on Monday. This took the form of what was called a new comic opera satire, written by a London lyric writer, Alfred J. Morris, and set to music by Walter Tilbury. It was in two acts and was entitled *Princess Lolah, or the Rajah of Virgipompon*. In it the Gotham group not only indulged in flashes of merry travesty of this and that comic opera and musical play, but they also played all the fourteen speaking parts and likewise represent the chorus and so forth. Although the satire was a little too deep in some instances for average music hall audiences, yet the skit went well—so well that it should become a great success, especially when cut down somewhat. While sampling this and other turns around the halls on Monday I found many other Americans going very strong, including Chris Bruno and Mabel Russell, Carrie Scott and her Pocket Pickaninny, and that marvelous hoop manipulator, Exorhart. During the week your sweet singing soubrette, Annette Fongler, was reported to be seriously ill in the provinces. I am glad to hear, however, that the report was much exaggerated and that Annette has returned to London comparatively well.

Sir Henry Irving and company have this week broken every record in Dublin City, where they have been held by all the people of light and learning on the basis of the *Life of Pizarro*. After the performance of *The Belle of Bohemia*, last night Irving read a telegram from good old Johnny Toole saying, "Give my love to all Dublin, where I first commenced work nearly forty-nine years ago."

The aforesaid Irving has, I find, accepted a play by Fergus Hume. One would, of course, naturally assume that any play from the nib of that ultra-sensational novelist will be the most marrow-freezing I find, however, that Fergus's play is not so much of the blood and thunder as of a blank verse kind. Mr. and Mrs. Kendal will produce presently Egerton Castle's new play, which has just been named *The Secret Orchard*. The production of *The Silver Slipper* at the Lyric has been fixed for April 20. The producer of this, Tom E. Davis, cannot open the New Adelphi with *The Whirl of the Town* till about May Day.

LONDON, March 2.

Although the argumentation and fermentation concerning Manager Lowenfeld's method of opening his New Apollo Theatre with *Impresario Lederer's* new production, *The Belle of Bohemia*, has simmered down since my last epistle, yet we have had not an utterly unexciting week.

In the first place there have been all sorts of rumors and denials during the week as to the Manager of Headfort having arranged to espouse a tawdry actress, one Rosie Roote to wit, who has as long been chattering "Maidie, you're a Daisy" in *The Messenger Boy*. At the moment of writing the denials have been routed with great slaughter by reason of an official statement from his Lordship stating that he is going to marry Rosie and that he does not care who knows it! The poor in question is in the First Life Guards, and is of the mature age of three and twenty. The beautiful and little Rosie is about the same or even more. Young Headfort and his of Headfort's daughter, namely, the Marquis and Countess, have been in the good old Oldland, County Kells, Meath; and the Lodge, Virginia, County Wick. He has also a lovely town house in Wilton Place, Belgravia, and owns some 22,000 acres, don'tcherknow.

As to the aforesaid Lowenfeld-cum-Lederer matter, I have to report that the second night after Manager Lowenfeld's "invitation performance" of *The Belle of Bohemia*, a certain section of the paying public did (as I predicted would be)

the case, make some attempt to signify their indignation at the Lowenfeldian "invitation" tactics. There was a decided endeavor on the part of some of the gallery folk to "boycott" and on the part of others to excommunicate somewhat derisively. The electric light, however, was suddenly (and somewhat rudely) flashed full in to these gallery folk in such sort as to dazzle them and to check any further demonstrations. The *Times* critic, the enchanter, but clever A. B. Walkley, abstained from criticizing the performance until the second night in question, when he gave Lowenfeld journalistic beams, and was not too kind to Lederer and Co. on investigation. I find that all this feeling has apparently subsided and that *The Belle of Bohemia* is now running on its merits, that, albeit not always of the most meritorious order, are yet sufficient in quantity to cause it to deserve to run for some months.

One of the most eccentric theatrical eccentricities of the week was the production by the Stage Society of a so-called Greek play written in English by Professor Gilbert Murray, of Edinburgh, and entitled *Andromache*. Murray's previous crime in the play-making line was a strange Indian poison play, *Carlyon Sahib*, produced by Mrs. Patrick Campbell a year or so ago, when it achieved a magnificent run of six nights, which was at least five more nights than it deserved. Not that the Professor is not clever. He is, indeed, he is a man of profound erudition and of excellent gifts. That these gifts, however, do not lie in a dramatic way were again evidenced by his latest "play." His language (oppose all the times) was good, nay, often strong and incisive, but his construction and characterization were of an uncertain or wobbly wobbly kind, owing to this uncertainty *Andromache* now seemed to emulate the Greek Tragedy of old times, and again to drop into the cynical colloquialisms of Pueronian and Grundyian "sexual" plays. Thus the character of *Andromache* panned out merely as "the other Woman" of the new fangled problem play-wrights. The injured wife was Hermione, daughter of the late Helen, queen of Sparta, and espoused to Pyrrhus, who as played by that arch Isenante, Charles Charrington, was more rugged than even the one mentioned by the touring actor in Hamlet. To still further disturb the already muddled matrimonial relations of Pyrrhus and Hermione, there came into the Palace (as the playgoers call it) one Orestes, who was formerly betrothed to Hermione, but who had since had the misfortune to murder his Mother, and to be ever since haunted by the Furies.

Now, Orestes, after singing all sorts of offensive and insulting lyrics to his warlike host, essayed to carry off Hermione aboard a sort of Homeric yacht, which he had moored out in the offing. Pyrrhus, however, although he had all the time called his wife all sorts of names—such as "daughter of a dog," etc.—and had menacingly bullied her because she had never borne him a child as the "other woman" has, objected to Orestes negotiating this abduction. Therefore, like the old-fashioned play, he up and followed on the track. Wild spear fights and things then set in and Orestes stabbed Pyrrhus, whereupon Hermione stabbed *Andromache*, and then stabbed herself, and all three corpses fell at the foot of the Altar of Thetis while the non-compos Orestes looked on with some astonishment as the curtain fell. There! isn't that a pretty play?

Andromache (in order to increase the realism, I suppose) was played without any music either during or between the acts. Whenever the curtain was about to rise somebody feebly rang a sort of little muffled bell. The players were not great, nor even good, with the exception of Gerald Lawrence as Orestes, and occasionally Edith Olive as *Andromache*. Janet Achurch (Mrs. Charles Charrington), who is usually checkful of intensity, was very weak as Hermione. The piece started at nearly three and was all over by 4.45, including two intervals of fifteen and twenty-five minutes respectively. Still, the play was quite long enough for most of us. Indeed, some poor startled critics fled incontinently after the first act.

At the Royalty on Wednesday Mrs. Pat Campbell followed that nasty play, Mr. and Mrs. Deventry, with that somewhat less nasty play of *Pinkie's*, The Notorious Mrs. Ebbsmith. It is not one of "Pinkie's" best, and I do not think it will do much better than it did on its first production at the Garrick, and that was not much, and then it had John Hare and Forbes Robertson in it.

The aforesaid Mrs. Pat has secured a new translation of the German play, entitled *Johanneseuer*. It is written in the German custom of rollicking and bawdy burning on St. John's Eve, and will be called *Pointe Night*. F. R. Benson revived *As You Like It* at the Comedy on Wednesday. Benson did very well as Orlando and Mrs. Benson was quite an interesting Rosalind. Forbes Robertson and Gertrude Elliott started their first theatrical tour as man and wife at the Grand, Fulham, on Monday with *Hamlet*, *The Sacriment of Judas*, *Carrots*, etc. They have had a big week; so have the Kendals at the Alexandra, Stoke Newington, and Wilton Barrett at the Kennington. Mrs. Langtry has given the name of *The Royal Necktie* to her new Marie Antoinette play, with which she is in April to open the rebuilt Imperial Theatre, adjacent to the Royal Aquarium at Westminster. Your sweet singer, Caro Roma, has been scoring heavily at the grand and English operas at the Standard, where the Turner Opera company puts in many solid weeks per annum.

I regret to have to report the continued serious illness of Managers Paddy Carter, W. S. Penley, and G. H. Maedemott. The last named is a variety manager who some twenty years ago was wont, as The Great Maedemott, to sing a volcanic dirty called "We Don't Want to Fight, But By Jingo If We Do." I regret also to have to report that Mary Moore, of Wyndham's Theatre, widow of the late playwright, James Albry, had such serious news of the condition of her son, now at the front, that she started for South Africa a few days ago.

The Anthony Hope and Edward Rose for Marie Tempest) *Sell Gwynne* play, English No. 1, started its first tour at the Wellington Grand on Monday. Charles Courtwright was a fine Charles the Second and Kitty Loftus a droll, if diminutive, Nell. The hero, Simon Dale, was earnestly interpreted by Marie Tempest's husband, Cosmo Stuart, who is really Cosmo Stuart Gordon Lennox, a scion of the Duke of Richmond, and so a descendant of Louise de Querouaille, one of the merry monarch's many "mistresses."

George Edwards has decided that his next production at Daly's shall be by J. T. Turner, part author of *In Town*, etc. It will not, however, be an Irish play, as Edwards had contemplated. Lewis Waller will be long producing a new modern romantic melodrama, written by Cyril Hallward and entitled *A Soldier of Fortune*. Boehm Tree has just commissioned Stephen Phillips to write him a play around the peregrinations of the late Ulysses. In this Homeric drama T. will of course play U.

You may be interested to know that George Washington Lederer sails for your shores next Wednesday to bring back some more American plays and players; and that Citizen R. G. Knowles will on Monday at the Alhambra commence his absolutely "farewell" engagement in the London variety theatres.

And now, hey! for the ballot box to vote for the new County Council candidates, some of whom have caused such excitement among our theatrical and variety managers and others. It is going to be an exciting fight, and in the thick thereof will be found your faithful warrior to command.

PARIS.

New Plays and Operas—A Production Foreboding and a Closure.

(Special Correspondence of The Mirror.)

PARIS, Feb. 22.

Activity still prevails in the theatres and gives prospects of continuing. The past fortnight has had new productions, with successful and otherwise, and important news has been plentiful.

At the Opera there has been produced *Astarte*, the mythological opera by Louis de Gramont and Xavier Leroux. First night enthusiasm gave this work a flattering reception, yet critical opinion must declare it far from perfect. Mr. Leroux ranks high as a musician. He has been a deep student of his art, and is expert in the technique of composition and orchestration. He is original, too, save for the influence of the Wagnerian school, that is frequently evident in the score of *Astarte*. But he seems not to be musically fluent—that is, the stream of his composition is narrow, shallow and turbulent. One never broad, deep and smooth flowing. One seeks in vain for expression, for emotional feeling, for delicate coloring. One finds a constant noisiness and resonance, a sameness of thought, a bluntness of appreciation. This is taking the score as a whole—in spots it is admirable, for the rest it aims high and falls short. The theme chosen by M. de Gramont can scarcely be commended. True, it is intensely emotional and ranges from the tragic and heroic to the sensual and vicious, but the sensuality and viciousness predominate, and the pivotal subject is nasty. M. de Gramont has taken some liberties with mythology in his plot. In the opening act Hercules, who is called Duke of Argos, determines to stop the vile rites that accompany the worship of Venus-Astarte at Sardis and sets out to conquer Omphale, Queen of Lydia. After his departure Iole, a vestal, prophesies that he will fall victim to Omphale's charms. Dejanira, his queen, to ward off this infidelity, sends Iole to her husband with the fiery shirt of Nessus, that, while he wears it, will keep him true to her. Hercules has meanwhile reached Sardis, where his army has been welcomed by the alluring smiles and gestures of the amorous Lydian women. Though he repudiates his soldiers for their susceptibility, Hercules himself succumbs to Venus when he sees the beautiful Omphale. A passionate love duel ensues, in which Omphale conquers the demigod. They embrace as the gauze-clad Lydian girls dance seductively. As the dance ceases Iole enters with the shirt of Nessus, and Hercules, stricken with remorse, dons it. The sacred flame bursts from the garment but puts Hercules in agony, and he dies, while the temple itself is consumed by the fire Omphale, unaffected by the tragedy, departs for Lesbo, there to establish a new temple to Astarte. The honors of the performance fell to Alvarez for his splendid work as Hercules. He sang the difficult role perfectly, and was forceful and vigorous in his acting. Mile. Begon portrayed Omphale with ardent realism. M. Delmas was commanding as the high priest of Astarte; Mile. Grandjean was successful as Dejanira, and Mile. Hatto charmed as Iole. Massive and imposing scenery and rich costumes were utilized.

A novelty was offered at the Opera Comique last evening in *La Fille de Tabarin*, a so-called "lyrical comedy," libretto by Sardon and Paul Ferrier; score by Gabriel Pierné. M. Pierné came out best, having composed a dainty score, of light texture but replete with fetching airs. As for the book, it tells a pretty story rather clumsily. M. Sardon, seemingly, refraining from exercising his technical skill upon it. Tabarin, the famous mountebank, is a favorite with Ferrier, who has used him as the hero of a novel and a play. The operetta represents him as having retired from the "stage" with considerable wealth and established himself in a country chateau under the alias of the Sieur de Beauval. Even his daughter, who spent her childhood in a convent, is ignorant of her father's identity. Tabarin makes friends with the neighboring gentry and the daughter is betrothed to a count. A band of strolling players, former associates of Tabarin, arrive and recognize him. They promise silence, but during their performance Tabarin himself reveals his secret by his comments on the playing of his favorite role. His aristocratic friends withdraw in haste, and his daughter's betrothal is broken. The girl avows her love for her father, but the old clown is broken-hearted and he shoots himself just before the count, who has returned, returns to consent to the marriage. Ferrier was eminently successful as Tabarin and Ferrier, as another player, was very droll. Of the women Mile. Grandjean was most prominent. The dressing and staging were beautiful.

Flamboyant, patriotic melodrama reigns at the Ambigu, where Jules Mary's *Le Chanson du Pays*, in five acts and eight scenes, tells an involved, cumbersome plot in conventional fashion. The story is so complicated that it would take a column to tell it. Enough to say that it is a drama of the Austrian war of 1792, teeming with improbable incidents. As a scenic spectacle it is fine, and the company is adequate.

But one production remains to be recorded—*Les Remplacantes*, by M. Brioux, at the Théâtre Antoine. A few words will suffice for it, for the matter is not of the choicest. The play is a philippic against wet nurses, the practice of employing whom, M. Brioux avows, is damnable from every point of view. Undoubtedly he makes out a strong case, but it is not the sort of stuff one cares to see on the stage. Dramatically *Les Remplacantes* is unsatisfactory; in fact, it is a physiological treatise rather than a play.

One expected premiere will not take place for a time, at any rate. *Dépendance*, Albert Guinon's drama, that Rejane was about to do at the Vaudeville, has been stopped by the Minister of Fine Arts. It seems that M. Guinon rapped the degenerate French nobility none too gently, and the originals of some of the characters, it is said, would have been recognized readily. The story was of the marriage of the daughter of a penniless nobleman with a rich Jewish merchant. Rejane has it that *Dépendance* will go on anon, but Manager Ford is busy rehearsing *La Petite Marquise* as a substitute for the present.

The Managing Committee of the Comédie-Française stirred up a rumpus among the "pensionnaires" when it voted not to elect new "sociétaires" to succeed Mile. Marsy and M. Worms. Their shares are to be divided among other "sociétaires," whose number will remain as at present. Much complaint from the "pensionnaires," but nothing can be done to mend matters.

La Cavalière at the Théâtre Sarah Bernhardt is a disastrous end. The theatre closed suddenly, and the backer of the enterprise is reported to have lost \$100,000 on it. This was the play by Jacques Richepin, son of Jean Richepin.

Many new offerings will be made in the next few days. Among them are *Le Liseuse* at the Renaissance, *Les Médicis* at the Variétés, *Pour l'Armée* at the Athénée, and the revival of *Patric* at the Comédie Française.

Sybil Sanderson has been engaged for a short season at the Opera Comique. Rejane is to tour South America in 1922.

T. S. R.

MEXICO.

Opening of Orrin's Circus—Concerts and Spiritualism—The Juvenile Players.

(Special Correspondence of The Mirror.)

MEXICO, Feb. 11.

Manager Fred Hodgeson is to be congratulated for the very successful opening he arranged for the annual engagement of Orrin's Circus. The house was crowded and the entire performance went with a "go." Collectively I believe the performance was not as strong as it was last season, though in individual instances it seemed stronger. The *Duenna* Sextette made a favorable impression. Madame Marsella's educated birds did some remarkable work; *La Fleur* and his did seem to please the audience; the *Vale Trio* and their Indian club act received applause; a Japanese troupe did the familiar juggling. *Barbar* and Jules did clever hand work. Miss Fisher displayed clever feats of strength with her teeth. Dan O'Brien did good tumbling, while Dick Bell, the clown, kept the audience in good humor for half an hour. The circus will remain several months and will then tour the Republic.

Emma Sostegni, the Italian mezzo-soprano, appeared at the Remoncino recently with fair success. Rose Fuentes in *La Fleta de San Antonio* appeared with her and met distinct favor.

Professor Luis Montecinos, the piano in

structor, gave a musical recital in the National Conservatory recently. He was assisted by his pupils. The performance was creditable.

Anna Eva Fay, fortune teller and spiritualist, gave a series of performances at the Arben recently. Her pecuniary success was not great, but she did some seemingly remarkable feats.

The Juvenile Comedy company has caught on at the Principal, and are doing a very large business. These little tots are clever and remind one of the famous *Liliputians* in the States. The star of the organization is Augustin, and in the Iron King she scored a hit.

Teresa Carreno, the celebrated pianist, will give three concerts at the Remoncino Feb. 24, 26 and 28.

GRISO MARCUS.

JAMAICA.

The Queen's Death Affects Business—Opera—Amateurs in The Gaiety.

(Special Correspondence of The Mirror.)

KINGSTON, Feb. 22.

Owing to the Queen's death theatrical matters here were at a standstill for some time. The coming of the Lamhardi Opera Company was the first since the sad event. The company arrived here early in February and did not know that the Queen had died. They were compelled to defer their opening several days on account of the mourning. Their season was a short one, the operas produced being *La Traviata*, *La Forza del Destino* and *Carmen*. The first two were poorly attended, but *Carmen* drew a good house. The company was fairly well needed strengthening. They left for Cuba Feb. 11.

The Gaiety was produced for the first time here Feb. 19, by The Kingston Operatic Society. Mrs. Lewis, president; Jean Shaefer, manager and Montgomery Irving, stage-manager. All the scenery and costumes were made for the occasion. *O Mimosa* San was played by Miss L. Lyman, of Philadelphia, who was well received. *Nicotina* Soutar, as Juliette; Miss B. Francis, as Lady Constance Wynne; Mrs. D. Lewis, Hilda Soutar, and Miss Kilburn, all did well. Mrs. Louis Lewis, Ilma Barrow, Lena Barrow, and Elta Soutar were pretty Gaiety girls. Dr. Ragg, as Wun-Hi, made a great hit. F. Lynch, as Captain Fairfax, was in good voice and acted well. The other officers were L. Lewis, Arthur Morrison, and E. Honnball. Little Stella Jacobs earned revella for her singing. William Morrison, as the Marquis Imari, also won much favor. Mention is also due Mr. Delgado and the Misses Pollock, Smith, and Soutar. By request the opera will be repeated Feb. 26.

MONTGOMERY IRVING.

HAVANA.

Theatres Recover from Carnival Depression—New Opera Company Makes a Hit.

(Special Correspondence of The Mirror.)

HAVANA, Cuba, March 6.

The Carnival season, which is nearing its end, has had a tendency to keep people from the theatres, owing to the many other amusements of this time. During the past two weeks, however, the presence of excursionists has caused the theatres to play to large business. The Berliet French opera company canceled its engagement at the Tacon, and the Tacon opera company, that recently began its run at the Tacon, having no opposition, is playing to good audiences. The company is an agreeable surprise, and the operas so far sung have been rendered in a satisfactory manner. Andrian's operetta, *La Poupée*, scored the greatest success for the company, but its members have appeared to advantage in other operas, notably *La Bohème*, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Il Pagliaccio*. *Scherita* Labin and Turooni Bruni, the prima donnas, have had ample opportunity to display their beautiful voices and to win the favor of their audiences. *Scher* Mayerson sings in a finished manner every part allotted to him.

The Tacon remains dark to theatricals, having been given over to masked balls during the carnival. *Romero* and his company are announced to come to the Tacon shortly.

There have been no new productions at the Alhambra recently. Rosalia Siler, a newcomer to the stock company, is favorably received.

The Larn continues closed, while the Alhambra is doing a good business. The plays presented are *El Castillo de Alcazar*, *La Criada Respondona* and *Papa Tacos Jugadores*. *Gioline*, an American sentimental dancer, began an engagement at the house under week.

The Cuba continues to do large business. New faces are Freddie Clark, Olive Woslake, and Hazel Hall.

Publillon's Circus will shortly make a tour of the island.

J. ELLIS NORRIS.

HONOLULU.

A Lively Season Promised—Drama, Opera and Vaudeville—The Orpheum Leased.

(Special Correspondence of The Mirror.)

HONOLULU, Feb. 19.

The present indications are that Honolulu will have more than its usual share of comedy, drama, opera and vaudeville this Spring and Summer. Aside from the attractions mentioned in my last letter, recent advices are to the effect that the Plying Jordans, who appeared here several years ago, will give a vaudeville tent show during March.

James Love, at one time manager of Janet Walcott and later of Nance O'Neil, is organizing an opera company, with which he intends touring the Orient, taking Vladivostok to the North and going Westward as far as India. Josephine Stanton, of the Boston Lyrics, is to head the company. Honolulu will be their first stop and the company will arrive here probably a few days after Nance O'Neil.

Antonia Dolores may sing in this city. She is booked to sail for Australia on the *Ventura*, that arrives here March 12.

Tolman's Little Time, a comedy, was presented at the Orpheum, Feb. 9 and 16, by the Honolulu Dramatic Club to appreciative houses. This club is made up principally of professionals who came to this bench with various companies, and becoming infatuated with the climate, resolved to make Honolulu their home.

Joe Cohen, formerly manager of the Orpheum company, who operated the Orpheum Theatre, has obtained a lease of the building from the company and will conduct it hereafter.

C. L. CLEMENT.

ENGAGEMENTS.

W. A. McConnell, as business manager for John Marston, will sell for London shortly to arrange for Miss Marston's appearance there.

Gilbert Clayton, for The Prima Donna.

Solmar Romane, with The Flaming Arrow.

Clinton Newton, as business manager and press agent, for Welsh Brothers' Circus.

Paul K. Guiton, for The Prima Donna.

Patton Radford, Sherman Rowles, Charles Mallon, Thomas Carlton, Harris P. Cogan, William Savage, Emma Maxwell, Clara Edmond, Julia M. Romaine, Nellie Marshall, Louise Hackett, Helen Williams, and Robert Riddell for Thomas W. Broadhurst's hostess company.

William Stanford, with Ferris Comedians.

Richard Renshaw Nell, released by Frank McKee from Mary Manning company, to John Miss Bob White.

Firth Tetter, for the emotional lead in Broadhurst Brothers' *Justice*.

Thomas Whiffen, with Miss Bob White, opening in Philadelphia, April 15.

For Miss Bob White: Alice Campbell, Ethel Jack, Ray, Raymond Hirschbeck, Jackie Hawley, John C. Slavin, George Howe, William E. Philip, Nicholas Bernham, and Thomas Whiffen.

To support Victory Bateman in East Lynne: Maud Stoddard, Helen Newell, Mary Leonard, Clarence Heritage, Walter Clifford, Richard Arthur, James Bartlett, and August Perlicka.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS

Chicago, March 11.
Hearts from Whizzer—News Sitings.
(Special to The Mirror.)

Chicago, March 11.
 The stars here at the leading theatres this week, some surprising themselves and some succeeding. R. Fitzsimmons and Mr. Blakett. And "The O'Neill" is the wonder of them all. He is as young and handsome as he was when leading man of the stock company at McVicker's, where he is now breaking all records with Monte Cristo. He opened to the biggest Sunday night money that the house has ever held under the Litt management, and his was the largest second night and the largest Wednesday matinee. The star looks younger than many substitutes and all of his old Chicago friends are giving him a hearty welcome home. His second week opened last night to "the capacity."
 Mr. Blakett was followed at Powers tonight by John Hare, who charmed a large and fashionable audience in The Gay Lord Quex.
 Jack Fern, manager of Hearts of Blue Ridge, writes me that a gentleman has addressed him this question: "How many people do you carry in your quartette?" There's nothing like making sure of those things.

Foxy Quiller followed Maude Adams in L'Aiglon at the Illinois last evening. The pretty Canadian, Jerome Sykes, made a bit. Our Press Club has recently exploited a couple of entertainers whose names might find a place in the subtitle album. They are Edding Arthur Johnson, lecturer, and W. Stamps Cherry, African explorer.

Stuart Robson began his second and farewell week at the Grand Opera House last evening with a very creditable revival of She Stoops to Conquer, in which he assumes his old role of Tony Lumpkin. Mr. Robson, by the way, celebrated his sixty-fifth anniversary March 4 and received a congratulatory jingle from his friends of the Lambs.

A Grand Rapids correspondent sends me the programme of an amateur recital in which Birdie Bear figures as doing a piano solo stent called "The Storm." (I'll bet her auditors were glad she didn't have an umbrella.)

Josephine Ludwig came up from St. Louis to alternate Arive, with Maud Lillian Herr, in the revival of The Bohemian Girl by the Castle Square Opera Company at the Studebaker this week. Joseph Sheehan is also in the cast and Winfred Goff makes his first appearance. Frank Moulton made one of his biggest hits as Bunthorne in Patience last week. He will have Daniels' part in The Wizard of the Nile next week.

My good wife is at the Hotel Navarre in New York, and I hope to be able to sneak down and rescue her from Broadway.

Eleanor Barry was specially engaged to play Kate Hardcastle in She Stoops to Conquer at the Grand this week.

Speaking of vaudeville reminds me that one successful intermediary with the local managers and the White Rats was Biggie Bell, who arranged matters to the entire satisfaction of both sides. The Rats held a celebration of their victory in the parlors of the Continental Hotel here Friday night.

Souza and his band are to be at the Auditorium next Friday and Saturday evenings and Saturday afternoon, with Blanche Duffield and Bertha Bucklin as soloists.

I hope Otis Skinner doesn't meet that proof-reader of yours in New York. I believe he would say any man who gave his daughter the name of "Amelia" when I wrote it "Cornelia." Lawrence Hanley made his first appearance in the stock at Hopkins yesterday, appearing in The English Rose.

Nellie McHenry had two big houses at the Great Northern yesterday to see her Miss. She is well supported by Joseph Brennan and Ben Grinnell.

"Punch" Wheeler tells me that he is interested in a new fire proof hotel of staff, to be built near the Buffalo Exposition grounds. He claims that its advantage is that a man who stays out late at nights and forgets his night key can get in with a can-opener. "Punch" is a Buffalo, by the way. He turns down people who ask for passes with his left hand.

J. C. Williamson, the Australian manager, passed through here last week en route to London, on the look out for attractions.

At the Dearborn this week the stock company is presenting Why Smith Left Home, with Louise Kial in Mrs. Yeomans' original part.

The stage will be elevated at the Alhambra this week, when Black Patti's Troubadours will devote the last three nights to a prize cake walk, open to all comers.

Hearts of Oak is in the bill this week at the Academy of Music, while at the Bijou The Span of Life is the attraction.

The stock company at the new Victoria this week is giving The Banker's Daughter, with Albert Andras and May Hosmer in the leading roles.

During Henrietta Crossman's recent engagement at the Grand Opera House here I sat one night in a stage box with W. W. Denslow, the artist, who took out a pad of paper and pencil and began to sketch Aubrey Boucicault as King Charles. Miss Crossman noticed him, thought he was stealing Mistress Nell, and was about to send out in front to have the "person" ejected, when Boucicault told her who we were. The next day I mailed Boucicault the sketch to prove it.

Walter Jones, the comedian, who has been quite ill here, has recovered, but his wife has fallen ill now.

The Russian Nihilist, by Joseph Latimer, is being presented by the stock company at the new Yiddish theatre.

Harry Clifford will be seen in A Trip to Chinatown at the Great Northern next week, and the underline at the Alhambra is Elmer E. Vance's Treasure Island.

A friend writes me from Palm Beach, Florida, that Sol Smith Russell is very feeble, walking with the aid of a cane, and that the gayest golfer in the place is the prospective bridegroom, Willie Jefferson, brother of Tom.

Harry Corson Clarke is here at the Auditorium for a few weeks, reorganizing his company.

Will S. Rising passed through here yesterday. One of the architects interested in the Dearborn Theatre has written a romantic play called Greater than King, which the stock company at that house will produce next Sunday. I do not see why an architect should not write a successful play—many carpenters have.

Fitzsimmons was arrested here last week, at the instance of "Reformer" Frank Hall, for participating in a sporting exhibition, which is an incident of his play, The Honest Blacksmith. His press agent was called to the witness chair and told the story of the play. I was glad to hear the narrative, because I had seen the play and did not know the story. "REY" HALL.

PHILADELPHIA.

A Big Week Looked For—New Play at the Girard Avenue Elks' House Opened.

(Special to The Mirror.)

Philadelphia, March 11.
 Business the past week at the high priced theatres was not up to expectations. This week, with Richard Mansfield, Henrietta Crossman, and Alice Nielsen as the drawing cards, big results are looked for.

Henrietta Crossman inaugurated a two week return engagement this evening at the Auditorium, with her great success, Mistress Nell, in a crowded house. The two hundredth and fiftieth performance of Mistress Nell was celebrated by the presentation to every woman in the audience

of a signed photograph of Miss Crossman. The cast is the same seen here before, save that Aubrey Boucicault is the King, while Sidney Booth enacts the Duke of Buckingham.

This will be a great week at the Walnut Street Theatre, where Richard Mansfield opened in Henry V for two performances, with his popular repertoire for the rest of the term. Mary Manning March 18.

As predicted, Annie Russell as a \$2 star, at the Broad Street Theatre, with A Royal Family, only attracted medium business, and continues this week with similar returns. The management wisely announce that when E. H. Sothern and Virginia Harned open here, March 18, the regular theatre prices, no seat over \$1.50, will prevail. A Runaway Girl April 1. Maude Adams April 8.

The farewell week of the Alice Nielsen Opera company in America opened to-night at the Chestnut Street Opera House, with The Singing Girl, that will be given for three performances, followed by The Fortune Teller for the remaining nights. Miss Nielsen had a brilliant reception and large audience, and the entire company was enthusiastically received. N. C. Goodwin and Maxine Elliott March 18 for two weeks, prices to be advanced to \$2 for this engagement. Marie Dressier April 1.

Lady Huntsworth's Experiment, with Hilda Spring featured, is in its second and closing week at the Chestnut Street Theatre. The Rogers Brothers in Central Park March 18. Jefferson de Angeli April 1.

Robespierre received its first representation on any stage to-night at the Girard Avenue Theatre by the Durban-Sheeler Stock company. It is a strong tale of the Reign of Terror, and the working of the guillotine is realistically depicted. House crowded. Trilby March 18.

The Forepaugh's Theatre Stock company presents Weuns of Tennessee. The scenic effects were specially prepared. John J. Farrell, Isabelle Evesson, and Florence Roberts deserve special mention. Business large. Hazel Kikee March 18.

The Convict's Daughter had its first local production to-night at the National Theatre. It was well received by a good house. Through the Breakers March 18. Uncle Tom's Cabin March 25.

The Little Minister, with the original scenic settings, is at the Park Theatre. Barbara Freiliche March 18. At Piney Ridge March 25.

The Standard Theatre Stock company gives a creditable representation of The Stowaway, opening to good house.

On the Stroke of Twelve is a good attraction this week up at the People's Theatre. Superba March 18.

Fumoni's Minstrels have the Eleventh Street Opera House crowded nightly. They give about the best minstrel entertainment ever seen here.

Burton Holmes lectures every Friday evening at the Academy of Music command excellent patronage.

Philadelphia Elks celebrated their thirtieth anniversary, March 10, by the formal opening of their new home, No. 1609 Arch Street, followed by a banquet at the Odd Fellows' Temple, at which 600 members and invited guests were present. The new home is the finest and most complete lodge room owned by the Elks. It was bought for \$25,000, after which \$15,000 were expended for alterations and \$5,000 for interior furnishing.

The late Simon Hassler, the well known violinist, and leader of the orchestra for many years of the Chestnut Street Opera House, left an estate of \$23,000, which was willed to his brother, sister and their children. During his 69 years of active life he remained a bachelor.

Thomas H. Perse and Edith Mason, of Castle Square Opera fame, are now organizing an opera company to appear at Chester Park, Cincinnati, O., June 15, for the summer season.

The Royal Marine Band of Italy, under the management of Signor Giannini, opened at Young's Pier, Atlantic City, March 9, for the season. S. FERNBERGER.

BOSTON.

What Hubbies are Seeing—Tech. Boys to Sing the Grand Duke—Under Two Flags.

(Special to The Mirror.)

Boston, March 11.

To-night's chief novelty is the return of an old favorite—A Runaway Girl—at the Boston, and although the cast is considerably different from that which was last seen here, there is little doubt of the success of the engagement. Arthur Dunn has succeeded James T. Powers as Flipper, and he is little, but oh my! He is a prime favorite here, although his recent engagements have been in vaudeville. Paula Edwards is again here playing far better than any character, which she plays far better than any one that has ever had the part. Ethel Jackson, who alternated the title-role with Virginia Earle the first season, is welcomed back to the part.

Boston sees Under Two Flags early and does not have to wait for the Paul Potter dramatization. The stock company at the Castle Square gave a spectacular production of the Edward Elmer version to-night and made a great popular hit. The chief honors were won by Lillian Lawrence, who played Cigarette and showed her great versatility by the complete transition from Fron Fron. The horseback ride was given with excellent effect. It was a queer coincidence of name that Princess Corona should be played by Corona Riccardo.

The Grand Opera House has the first drama dealing with war in the Philippines that Boston has yet seen. This is Across the Pacific, and Harry Clay Blancy has the principal character, Willie Live. The company is a good one for this class of play and the war effects were given with a realism that was quite thrilling. A Gully Mother will follow.

I wonder if it was more than a coincidence that made the stock company at the Bowdoin Square revive The White Rat at this time, when the vaudeville troubles have obtained such prominence. At any rate the name is well before the public at the present time and the play never received a better presentation here than that which it had to-night.

At the Tremont Jefferson de Angeli has made up for the disappointment of the opening night and has scored a hit with his operatic comedy, A Royal Rogue. The performance March 4 was the only one that was lost and the opening, March 5, scored a great popular hit. Mr. de Angeli has another congenial character, and Henry Norman, Eva Davenport, Harold Vizard, Sando Wicker, Charles Dugan, Hilda Hollis and the others of the company give excellent support. This is the last week.

May Irwin is in her final week at the Museum and Madge Smith, Attorney, continues to pack the house at each performance. Joseph Sparks and Emma Martinetti share honors with the star as fun makers, and the young women of the chorus were certainly the most possessing that Miss Irwin has ever brought here.

William Gillette is in his last fortnight at the Hollis and is nearing the end of his American tour, as he is to play only one more engagement after leaving Boston. That will be at Providence, and then he will begin a long vacation. When he resumes professional work it will be across the Atlantic at the Lyceum in London, the cast being the present one, with one or two minor changes.

Henry Miller is in his last week at the Park with Richard Savage, and the critics have had all sorts of nice things to say about his work. Florence Rockwell, too, has made one of the great hits of the engagement and is more of a favorite here than ever. Mrs. Boucicault and Jennie Eustace also have been received with unusual heartiness.

The Burgomaster is in its last week at the Columbia, the run being cut short in spite of the good business. Souvenirs were distributed to-night in honor of the twenty-fifth performance. The succeeding attraction has not been announced.

En Hur is still at the Colonial. For liberty and love is given at popular prices by the stock company at the Grand this week.

The boys of the Tech. say they will have a

feather in their caps for the enterprise which they are showing in their theatricals this season. They are going to give a Gilbert and Sullivan opera for the first time on this side of the Atlantic, thus making a step far ahead of the managers from Harvard and the other colleges. By a combination of circumstances The Grand Duke has never been played in America, and so it would not be surprising if several managers should make their way to Boston to see this production under the direction of Mrs. Janet Edmonston Walker, who, by the way, was the first Phyllis in Iolanthe that Boston saw. The Tech. theatricals have always been among the best of the year.

Henry Norman caught such a severe cold in the storm blockade that delayed the Jefferson de Angeli company that he lost several performances last week.

Last week was a lively one between newspapers and theatres, and at least three houses and two papers had little encounters in the course of the week.

Ethel Jackson, who is in A Runaway Girl at the Boston, has been engaged for The Messenger Boy next season.

Peg Woffington, or Masks and Faces, call it which you please—is in rehearsal at the Castle Square.

John E. Schoeffel is smoking Chinese cigars, a box of which was sent from Peking by his nephew and namesake who is in command of Company M, Ninth U. S. Infantry.

Mary Young is just recovering from a severe illness.

L. J. McCarthy at the Park has recovered from his illness, and his return to active duty has brought many congratulations from friends.

Before the Supreme Court last week arguments were heard in the case of Frances Drake against Edlin H. Allen and others. This was an action for alleged breach of a contract by the defendants to employ Miss Drake at their theatre for thirty five weeks in 1900-01 at \$100 a week. She got a verdict in the Superior Court, and to a refusal to give an instruction looking to the mitigation of damages.

Maud Poole, who is at the Tremont with Jefferson de Angeli, was arrested after the matinee, March 6, and would have had to go to the Charles Street jail if bondsmen had not been found. She is the first woman ever arrested in a civil suit in this city, but she may not enjoy that distinction. The suit was brought by William Gray Brooks, a well known lawyer and member of the famous Brooks family, who wants the return of jewelry valued at several thousands of dollars, which he gave to Miss Poole when they were engaged to be married. She met him here two years ago when she was playing with Francis Wilson, and he was devoted to his attentions. She considers that the jewels are her property. The case will not come up in the courts before next April. Practically every paper in Boston rang the changes on "I Want My Present Back" in the headlines of the stories.

Elote Enneking's Boston friends have been delighted to hear of the success which she made as Chrystal in Hearts of Oak. She took the role on short notice in the West owing to the illness of Miss Whiteford, the leading woman. She played it in Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Toledo. In the latter city she had a severe fall on the stage and was out of the cast for a week. She has now returned to duty and will play out the season. JAY BENTON.

ST. LOUIS.

Last Week's Results—Changes of Programme—Musical Matters.

(Special to The Mirror.)

St. Louis, March 11.

Francis Wilson did a good business with The Monks of Malabar at the Olympic. Marie Celest made a hit as Anita Tivoli. Edith Bradford was a stunning Zizibar. This evening Manager Short presented Sarah Bernhardt and M. Coquelin in L'Aiglon, before a very large audience. L'Aiglon will also be the bill for Tuesday evening and Wednesday matinee. Wednesday and Friday, La Tosca; Thursday, Cyrano de Bergerac; Saturday matinee and evening, Camille. The prices scale from \$3 down. James K. Hackett March 18.

Howard Gould did very well at the Century in Rupert of Hentzau. His impersonation of the dual role of the King and Rascaldyll was effective. Business was only fair. Sunday evening Herbert Keely and Effe Shannon presented My Lady Dainty to a good house. Thursday evening they will give the initial production of Manon Lescaut, Theodore Bert Sayre's dramatic adaptation of Abbe Prevost's French novel. In their support are Frederick Perry, Gaston Mervale, Guy Bates Post, William Boag, Harrison Armstrong, Joseph Osborne, Richard Dillon, May Monte Donico, Isabel Waldron, Winona Shannon, Louise Ayres and Edith Sanford. Next Sunday George Clarke in When We Were Twenty-one.

The Castle Square Opera Company gave a beautiful production of La Boheme at Music Hall. The stage settings and scenic effects were elaborate. Joseph Sheehan, as Rodolph, made the success of his career. Adelaide Norwood, who was quite ill week before last, was a splendid Mimì. Gertrude Quinlan's Muzette was a picture of mirth and gaiety. William Paul's Marcel was effective. Francis J. Boyle was excellent as Colline. This evening Manager Southwell presented The Mikado, with the following cast: Mikado, Winfred Goff; Nanki-Poo, Miro Delamotta; Poo-Bah, William Pruette; Ko-Ko, Frank Moulton; Fish-Tush, Francis J. Boyle; Nee-Ban, Frank Kanney; Yum-Yum, Adelaide Norwood; Piti-Sing, Gertrude Quinlan; Peep-Bo, Emma King; Katisha, Maud Lambert. Next week, Tanhauser.

The Lilliputians at the Grand were one of the most popular cards of the season. The attendance was so large throughout the week that Manager Garen gave a special matinee on Friday to accommodate the overflow. Sunday afternoon Howard Kyle made his first appearance here in Nathan Hale. In his company are: Charles Hight, Frederick Webber, George A. D. Johnson, Joseph Smiley, Howard Russell, Robert Kegerreis, Robert Barry, Stephen Hoyt, John Miles, Harry Becker, William Morton, Jessie Inett, Agnes Proctor, Antoinette Walker and Josie Sisson. The Village Postmaster is underlined.

Nellie McHenry made a hit in Miss at Havlin's. The production was certainly one of the best this famous story has ever had. This week Manager Garen has the Two Little Vagabonds, with the following cast: Arthur Cogiser, Seth C. Halsey, John Fordham, Del La Barre, W. H. Pendergast, James E. Baum, Richard Morse, Fred Farrell, C. A. Travers, John Arlington, Ethel Earle, Katharine Vincent, Nora Harrison, Lottie Briscoe, Anna Edden, Ruth Eldridge and Lillian Vane. The Flaming Arrow will follow.

Harry Glazier at the Imperial repeated his success of last season as D'Artagnan in The Three Musketeers. Me and Mother, a new domestic drama, had its first St. Louis presentation Sunday. It is a play of much realism and pure heart interest. Virginia Westbrook, a St. Louis girl, is in the cast.

The St. Louis Sketch Club gave a very creditable performance at the Pickwick Theatre Thursday evening. The club consists mainly of amateurs who are first-class in their line. They put on three sketches, The O'Rourke family, A Backwoods Politician, and The Cape Mail. The house was packed.

Arrangements have been made for the appearance at the Odéon of the Leipzig Philharmonic Orchestra April 17, 18.

The last concert of the Spelling Quartette will be given at Music Hall March 13.

W. Malmene, of this city, has composed a song, a "Hunting Chorus," which has been dedicated to the Apollo Club. The words are by Harry Cornwell (R. W. Proctor), the well known English poet of a generation ago.

Francis Rogers, baritone, late of the Castle

Square Opera Company, was the soloist at the Choral Symphony concert Thursday night at the Odéon. He gained much applause. Bluet's cradle song was sweetly and delicately played, while Strauss' "Belierien" waltz was received enthusiastically. The audience was fairly large. On the programme at the popular concert at the Odéon Sunday were Nora Neeter, who has just returned from Europe after studying five years with Scharwenka, Eugenia Center and Wallace Neiderhaghaus.

Francis Wilson was entertained Tuesday by the University Club, when he spoke in appreciation of Eugene Field. Emorio Morelle, musical director of Francis Wilson's company, who filled a similar position with the Castle Square Opera Company at Music Hall last season, was entertained here by the Castle Square singers.

Now that our 1900 World's Fair bill has passed through all the required legislation from the United States Senate down to the City Council and all the appropriations have been made, there are rumors of new theatres and amusement enterprises. We are certainly going to be in for the next three or four years.

J. A. SUTROS.

WASHINGTON.

Sothern at the National—Sowing the Wind by the Stock Company—Current Jottings.

(Special to The Mirror.)

WASHINGTON, March 11.

E. H. Sothern opened to-night in Hamlet at the New National Theatre to a large audience. The production is magnificent in its mounting. Mr. Sothern's Hamlet received much praise. Virginia Harned's Ophelia won a large share in the honors. At the Wednesday matinee Miss Harned will present Camille. Richard Mansfield will follow.

The Dairy Farm, Eleanor Merron's charming play, drew a large audience at the Columbia. An able company included Henry Leighton, Leslie Bingham, Paul Taylor, Arthur Sanders, Tony West, Eleanor Merron, Marie Bingham, Seymour Stratton, Louis Bates, Harry Robinson, and J. J. Hyland. Unleavened Bread next week.

Sowing the Wind, by popular request (4,326 votes), is the Lafayette Square Stock company's offering this week. Eugene Ormonde was the Elder Erabazon and Percy Haswell the Rosamond, and the "sex against sex" scene has rarely been more toothily rendered.

A Young Wife, with Selma Herman in the leading role, drew well at the Academy of Music to-night. John T. Nicholson, Mark Fenton, C. R. Craig, John L. Woodson, Charles Harris, Edna G. Brothers, and Alberta Lee appeared to advantage. Man's Enemy will follow.

In a recent warehouse fire a quantity of scenery and costumes, the property of Charles E. Hackett, were burned. The stock included the Booth Barrett production of Julius Cesar and the McKean Tye-Hammond production of Romeo and Juliet. The loss entailed was large and there was little insurance.

Eugene Ormonde, of the Lafayette Square Stock company, gave a special dramatic reading before the blind at the Congressional Library last Tuesday afternoon.

James Mahoney has signed for character parts with the Eugene Ormonde and Walter Craven Stock company, that will open in Syracuse May 6. Frederick Sullivan, of the Lafayette Square Stock company, will be stage manager.

JOHN T. WARDE.

BALTIMORE.

Unleavened Bread and Other Attractions—Notes from the Monumental City.

(Special to The Mirror.)

BALTIMORE, March 11.

One of the largest and most representative audiences of the season greeted the performance this evening at Ford's Grand Opera House of Unleavened Bread. The play is beautifully presented and charmingly acted. In the cast are such well known people as Elizabeth Tyree, Edward J. Morgan, Eleanor Robson, George Fawcett, George Woodward, Margaret Fuller, Alice Fisher, Malcolm Williams, Charles Backus, Morton Selden, John De Gez and Virginia Buchanan. Next week, The Burgomaster.

George V. Hobart's refreshing and amusing musical comedy, Miss Prim, with Marie Dresser in the principal role, is the offering at the Academy. George is so popular here that any thing and everything he writes must have a fair show at the hands of our theatregoers. In respect of location, Miss Prim should enjoy a good week, attributable to its author. Annie Russell will follow.

The play at the Holiday Street this week is Tennessee's Pardner, presented by Estha Williams, Jane Corcoran, Annie Mortimer, Fannie Carter, James M. Roophy, Percy Plunkett, Walter Ryder, Pierre Young, James Filling, G. A. Lindeman, E. S. Rex and others. The play is realistically produced and was enjoyed by a full house. Uncle Tom's Cabin will follow.

Two Vads will return to Ford's Grand opera House March 25. Its success of a few weeks ago was pronounced and warranted a return engagement.

Souza and his band will give one concert at Music Hall, March 29, under the local direction of Manager Charles E. Ford.

Manager James E. Kernan does not seem in the least disturbed regarding a suit for damages that was brought against him during the past week. The claim is based upon an alleged assault which Mr. Kernan is supposed to have committed by proxy. If it was a criminal case and resulted in conviction, a rather amusing situation would result, as Mrs. Kernan, being a member of the Jail Board, which has supervision of our prison system, might be committed to himself for safe keeping.

Charles E. Ford and his daughter have gone to Florida for a several weeks' trip.

HAROLD RUTLEDGE.

CINCINNATI.

Benefit for the German Theatre Company—Current Attractions—Hunt Buys the Pike.

(Special to The Mirror.)

CINCINNATI, March 11.

Peter F. Dingley began his engagement here to-night at the Walnut in Hodge, Podge and Co. Christie McDonald, as Friscilla Hodge, shared honors with the star, and excellent support was rendered by William Broderick, George W. Barrow, Edward Garvie, Georgia Lawrence and Della Niven. Miss Niven is an especial favorite here by reason of her long connection with the summer opera company at Chester Park. Next week, E. S. Willard.

The Coast of Society was put on yesterday at the Pike and the opportunities for handsome scenery and splendid costumes were utilized to the utmost. Lizzie Hudson Collier and Byron Douglass, in the leading parts, were unusually effective.

The Williams and Walker company in Sons of Ham is the attraction at Heuck's.

Stricken Blind is this week's revival by the Rosenthal Stock company at Robinson's.

Geowengo Mohawk, the Indian actress, is at the Lyceum in The Flaming Arrow.

Frederon was specially performed by the German Theatre company at Music Hall on Tuesday night for the purpose of recouping the losses suffered in the Grand Opera House fire. The result was a gratifying success, both artistically and pecuniarily, and did much toward putting this admirable organization on a sound basis again.

Manager Hunt has purchased the interest of Sosman and Landis, of Chicago, in the Pike, and thus becomes the sole owner. As he has had a very free hand in the management of the house heretofore, no radical changes in its conduct are expected.

H. A. SUTROS.

THE STOCK COMPANIES.



Photo by Sommer, Philadelphia, Pa.

Donald Bowles, whose portrait appears above, is now appearing in Buffalo with James O'Neill's company, having signed a contract with that manager for the rest of this and next season.

The long and highly successful engagement of James O'Neill and the Neill company at the Tuck Theatre, Buffalo, N. Y., closed on Saturday and the organization will immediately depart on its annual tour of the West and the Pacific Coast. The engagement in Buffalo began Jan. 7. Previous to that date the Neill company was but little known there, but their superior performances found instant favor in the eyes of Tuck Theatre patrons and patronage has been remarkably large ever since. Among the novelties offered by Mr. Neill in Buffalo was a new Neill-Gwyn play, written by R. Owen Meach, of that city, which the papers declared the best version of Neill-Gwyn yet placed before the public. Charles Astor Parker, manager for Mr. Neill, left Buffalo for the West Saturday. Before leaving he said to a representative of THE MIRROR:

"Our trip across the continent will be a hurried one, in order to reach San Francisco in time for our engagement there of several weeks, commencing in April. Our stops will be Butte, Mont.; Spokane and Seattle, Wash.; and Portland, Ore. Our equipment will consist of three carloads of scenery and effects. We will carry six productions complete. During the summer we will revisit Honolulu on a liberal guarantee. During the coast trip Mr. Neill will offer five plays, new to the West, including the Sprightly Romance of Mervyn and The Honorable Peter Stirling. We will be the carnival attraction at Portland, Ore., next fall, and the Fruit Fair attraction at Spokane.

Among those in Mr. Neill's support are Edythe Chapman, Frank E. Cobb, Julia Dean, Frank MacVickars, Robert Morris, Lillian Andrews, John W. Barton, Donald Bowles, Edwin H. Neill, Mary Elizabeth Forbes, Scott Sauter, William Jarrett, Maude T. Gordon, E. L. Frost, Earl Hockstein, and W. P. Davis. Should we not close negotiations with J. V. Williams to visit Australia, we hope to make an extensive tour of the East late next season.

T. J. Boyle and J. Gordon Edwards, of the Boyle Stock Co., Nashville, Tenn., have secured a lease of the Auditorium, Birmingham, Ala., and will open it early next season with a first-class stock company. Mrs. T. J. Boyle will manage the Nashville house and Mr. Boyle will give his personal attention to the house at Birmingham. J. Gordon Edwards will direct the productions in both cities.

John Fraser's version of The Little Minister was a successful bill with the Boyle Stock company, Nashville, Tenn., week of March 4. Interest naturally centered in the Lady Babbie of Ethel Harrington, who gave a thoroughly praiseworthy performance of the character. Frank Melville did excellent work as Gavin Dishart. Morris McHugh as Weary World and William Stuart as Bob Dow supplied the comedy. The other characters were well sustained. My Friend from India is the current bill.

The Baldwin-Melville Stock company, New Orleans, presented Harbor Lights to large and enthusiastic audiences last week. The work of the entire company maintains its high standard and Maurice Freeman and Maude Odell continue to play leads with much success.

For the second of the series of Sardou productions at the Grand Opera House, Memphis, Tenn., Fedora was selected. The Hopkins Stock company, ably assisted by Melbourne MacDowell, gave a splendid production March 13. Much of the credit for the success is due to Nettie Marshall's acting in the title role. The rest of the company all did well in the minor parts. Theodora this week.

Henry Crosby has joined the Forepaugh Theatre Stock company, Philadelphia.

Joseph LeGrand's play, The Red Cross Nurse, will soon be produced by the Standard Theatre Stock company.

Franklin Ritchie, leading man of the Macloy Stock company, is meeting with much success.

Isabelle Evesson is winning success as leading woman of the Syracuse Summer Stock company. In Under the Lash recently she received much praise for her portrayal of Marie, the blind girl.

Harry Mestayer is meeting with success recently with the Thannhouse company, Milwaukee. He plays light comedy and juvenile roles and will remain with the company until May 1.

Eugene Orend, at present leading man of the Lafayette Square Stock company, Washington, will manage a summer stock company at the Eastable Theatre, Syracuse, opening May 6.

Mortimer Snow, who played a successful four-week stock engagement at Jacobs' Harbans Lyceum, Albany, N. Y., last summer, is organizing a stock company for the same theatre, to open May 6.

W. J. Denning has been engaged as comedian for Rosenthal's Stock company, at Robinson's Opera House, Cincinnati.

Adora Andrews will leave the Pike Stock company, Cincinnati, next Saturday.

Frances Drake has been engaged as leading woman of the Syracuse Summer Stock company.

George Faren left the Woodward Stock company, Kansas City, last week and will come to New York for a rest.

The gowns worn by Bertha Creighton as Camille, the Girard Avenue Theatre Stock com-

pany, Philadelphia, caused much admiring comment from the women patrons of that theatre.

Lucile Allen Walker last week repeated her former road success as Lavina Duly in Why Smith Left Home, with the Baker Stock company, Brooklyn.

J. Sydney Macy was specially engaged for Smith, in Why Smith Left Home, with the Baker Stock company at the Criterion Theatre last week, and with praise for an excellent performance.

Walter E. Waddell, of the Valentine Stock company, is a favorite at St. John, N. E. The Daily Sun of that place recently pronounced him one of the best comedians ever seen there.

Thomas Neegan has retired from the New Century Theatre Stock, Newark.

Gance Mae Lunkin has been engaged especially to play in The Sporting Duchess at the American Theatre next week. During the summer Miss Lunkin will be a member of the Thannhouse Stock company at the Academy of Music, Milwaukee.

George Fish, of Forepaugh's Theatre, Philadelphia, will sail for Europe March 22.

For Mortimer Snow's Albany Stock company J. J. Spies has engaged William Tooker, William Sadler, Beatrice Ingram and Mina Crolius.

DEATH OF HARRY MONKHOUSE.

Harry Monkhouse, one of the best known and most popular of comedians on the English stage, died at St. Thomas Hospital, London, Feb. 18, of a complication of gastritis, bronchitis and pneumonia. Mr. Monkhouse was forty-seven years old at the time of his death, having been born at Newcastle-on-Tyne May 17, 1854. His real name was John Ansell McKie. In his boyhood he was active in amateur theatricals, and love for the stage led him into the professional ranks, though his education had been directed toward medicine at the Church. He made his professional debut at Elyth in October, 1871, at Tyne's Theatre. After four years of provincial playing he made his London debut at the Elephant and Castle, under Marie Henderson's management, and remained there playing low comedy roles, until the burning of the theatre three seasons later. Subsequent engagements were at the Victoria and Marylebone theatres for three months each, and then a three years' stay at the Grecian Theatre, under J. F. Clarke's management. Among his roles there were the Irishman in The Green Gables, Sam Lazarus in The Black Flag, and Chamberlain in Proof.

After a short engagement at the Alhambra, Mr. Monkhouse made his first appearance at the Gaiety Theatre, Nov. 1, 1882, in More Than Ever. Later he appeared in Fra Diavolo and Bluebird and Ariel. He next starred in Larks, a comedy by Wilton Jones, opening in 1886 and continuing for three years. In the autumn of 1888 Mr. Monkhouse leased the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, and played for three months in the roles of Shamus in Arah in Fogue, Tom in The Shaggy-dog, Miles in The Colleen Bawn, and Tony Lumpkin in She Stoops to Conquer. He then returned to London and joined the Carl Rosa opera company to play Bouffant in Paul Jones, produced at the Prince of Wales Theatre Jan. 12, 1889. In this Mr. Monkhouse scored one of his greatest hits. He was also successful in Majorie and in Captain Thersie in 1889 and 1890. He originated the part of Dennis McCarthy in My Mother at a matinee at Todd's Theatre May 30, 1890. Horace Lodge then took the Prince of Wales' and engaged Mr. Monkhouse for The Rose and the Ring, in which he scored another hit, as he did in Maid Marian, that followed on Feb. 5, 1891. Mr. Monkhouse went with Mr. Lodge to the Lyric and played from 1891 to 1893 in La Cigale, Poor Jonathan, The Mountebanks, Incongruity, and The Magic Ring. During this period he made two short starring tours in Larks and a musical comedy, Pat.

George Edwards then engaged him for The Briery in A Gaiety City, produced at the Prince of Wales Oct. 14, 1893. His hit was pronounced, and Mr. Edwards signed him for the American and Australian tour of this musical comedy. He was seen in New York City in A Gaiety Girl at Daly's, opening Sept. 18, 1894, and was one of the best of a fine company. After returning to England, Mr. Monkhouse played Hadley in The Shop Girl; Smugglers in An Artist's Model; and the Marquis Inari in The Gaiety. He then leased the Art Theatre, Newcastle, for a time. His next London appearance was as Sir Tims Wemyss in The Tires Girl, followed by Brother Timarid in A Runaway Girl. Then came another tour in Larks, and an appearance in the pantomime, Cinderella, at Manchester. He then returned to George Edwards to play Hooker Fasher in The Messenger Boy, and the King of Blythe in Kitty Grey, on tour. He left Kitty Grey to take Willie Edouin's role of Anthony Tweed-punch in Florodora, on Mr. Edouin's departure for America. This was his last part, the illness that was to prove fatal seizing him in December and necessitating his retirement.

Despite his busy life, Mr. Monkhouse found time to write a number of comedies and sketches and the libretto of a comic opera, La Rosiere, produced by Marie Dalton at the Shaftesbury Theatre in 1893. His last work was a pantomime for Paul Martinetti, in which he collaborated with his son, Joseph Monkhouse.

Mr. Monkhouse was large in stature, had a good singing voice and an unending fund of humor. His circle of friends was very large, and he was famous as a story teller.

ARTHUR COLLINS BUSY.

Arthur Collins, manager of the Theatre Royal, Henry Lane, London, was seen to-day by a Mirror reporter. Since his arrival here last week from London he has remained rather quiet, in an endeavor to recover from the unpleasant effects of his voyage over, which he describes as having been an exceedingly rough one. Mr. Collins has not been wholly idle, however, having taken a trip to Boston, where he visited the prominent theatres, and commenced negotiations for the presentation in London of Ben Hur. He has also visited a number of New York playhouses and expressed himself as considering them exceedingly fine, in fact better than those abroad. One of his many plans is to present here his latest pantomime, Beauty and the Beast, interpreted by an American company. Before returning to England, in about three weeks, he hopes to complete arrangements for these matters, and also to engage actors for his various English enterprises.

THE JANUSCHKE BENEFIT.

A grand benefit for Madame Januschké, under the auspices of the younger American actresses, will be given in this city early in April. A committee consisting of Amelia Eliza, chairman, Viola Allen and Elinor Bates, has been appointed to take charge of the matter. Madame Januschké is now in feeble health and in need of assistance, and it is beyond question that the profession will be eager to aid her. It is hoped to make the benefit the greatest ever given here.

W. N. LAWRENCE NOT WORSE.

A story was published in a daily newspaper yesterday that Walter N. Lawrence, business manager of Dury's and the Lyceum, had suffered a relapse after his recent attack of pneumonia and was dangerously ill. At Daly's Theatre it was said that the story was entirely incorrect. Mr. Lawrence is now in feeble health and in need of assistance. He has been at Lakewood for some time and expects to be at his office this week.

AMERICAN ACADEMY MATINEE.

At the Empire Theatre last Tuesday afternoon the senior students of the American Academy of the Dramatic Arts appeared in their seventh public performance of the season. The programme, that consisted of three short plays and a new one-act opera, was unusually entertaining, although not so important as several of the earlier ones. The audience was very large, and as is customary, very generous in its applause.

The opening play of the afternoon, *Fortunio*, by Eileen Morella, proved to be a pleasing though utterly conventional little drama of Southern life, with the stock scene of a cabin interior, the regulation rough diamond father, the New York villain, and the familiar heroine in a gingham gown. The New Yorker plans to steal the girl from her mountain home and take her to the traditional city palace. The old father's simplicity and the girl's purity turn the mind of the man to better intentions, however, and at the last he marries the girl in prosaic but honorable fashion. Herman Leichter acted the role of John Greenwood, the father, with precisely the rigid touch of quaint humor and pathos. His make-up was excellent and his diction consistent. Herbert Pollard did not make the character of Alan Gordon, the New Yorker, at all natural or impressive. Charlotte Huntington, as Tennessee, was wonderfully dainty, graceful, sincere in her emotions, and attractive in her every word and movement.

A *Chorus-Messenger*, by J. Harber Matthews, was the second play performed. Had it been but half as long as it was it would deserve a place among the very best plays ever presented by the students. As it was, the action dragged sadly at times and the force of the story was weakened not a little. Considering the fact that the play has only two characters its situations are remarkably strong and its interest admirably sustained.

The scene is laid in the drawing room of a lonely house on the outskirts of London. The time is the present. A young English officer, the bearer of important State documents, meets at a mansion hall a young and attractive Russian woman, who, by appealing to his chivalry, induces him to her home, the isolated villa. She makes him believe that her object is to save him from enemies who are planning to waylay him and steal his dispatches. At the same time she herself is drugging him with opium cigarettes for that purpose. He explains to her, as the drug begins to have its effect, that the loss of the papers would bring ruin to him, that the one way open to him would be suicide, and that his disgrace would break the heart of the girl in love with whom he is engaged. The woman, however, is firm in her purpose, and as he sleeps she flees the dispatches from his portmanteau. The young officer wakes, realizes that he has been trapped, and is about to shoot himself when the woman re-enters and returns the precious papers. The reasoning throughout the many mental complications in the little play is perfectly logical, and the climax is brought about forcibly. Except for its undue length, the little fault to be found in the play. The situations are telling and the dialogue is well written.

Richard Crown, who has given a number of excellent performances at the Academy matinees this season, surpassed all her earlier work in the role of the Russian adventuress. Her manner, her adroit transition from one emotion to another, her intensity in the more emotional scenes, and her quite perfect accent, never for an instant forgotten, made her impersonation one of the most praiseworthy ever seen on what may be called the student stage of this city. Hugo Goldsmith as the young Englishman acted with discretion and was particularly successful in showing the effect of the drug as it gradually conquered the resolution of the messenger. He was not well cast in the role, however, as it would seem better suited to an older and more robust player.

The *Birth of the Flag*, an operetta in one act, by A. E. Lancaster and E. O. Jenkins, was next presented by the following cast:

Captain Clyde George E. Cooper
Squire Ashburn Roy Atwell
Mary Bertram Teresa Toule
Betsy Ross Juliette Atkinson

The performance of this little musical piece was especially interesting, since it marked the advent of the Academy into the field of opera. The operetta selected proved to be an excellent one for the occasion. The libretto, by Mr. Lancaster, reveals a pretty story of Betsy Ross, which is not to be found in the history books. Betsy, it appears, is sore pressed for money to pay her rent, and though she has an order to make wedding garments for Captain Clyde and Mary Bertram, who plan to elope, she sacrifices the chance to add to her exchequer in order to devote her time to making the first United States flag. Her landlord, Squire Ashburn, proposes marriage to her, but is refused. The elopers come for their costumes, and are indignant when they find them unfinished. Together Betsy has a difficult time of it until the flag is unfolded, when, through the influence of its beauty and meaning the tangled affairs of the two couples are straightened out. The simple little plot is clearly and prettily worked out, the dialogue is well contrived and witty, and the lyrics are poetic. Musically the operetta is pleasing, though it is not especially original. The songs are melodious, there are two very pleasing quartettes, and the air of "The Star Spangled Banner" is cleverly introduced. The performance given by the students was altogether admirable. They all sang well, and they really acted the part, which is a very unusual thing on the light opera stage. The operetta and the singers won enthusiastic applause from the audience.

The last play of the afternoon was a one-act emotional drama, by A. C. Fraser-Wood, entitled *In the Eyes of the World*. The action takes place in the rooms of Richard Carlton, in London. It appears that Lady Mabel Wendover, with whom Carlton is in love, is to be married, on the morrow, to Lord Wilfred Pontefract. The match is utterly loathsome. Lady Mabel comes to Carlton's rooms, late at night, to bid him good-by and to assure him of her affection. While she is there Pontefract is announced at the door, and Lady Mabel is secreted in an adjoining room. Pontefract enters, and being assured by Carlton that Lady Mabel is not there, is about to depart when Horatio Parr, a suddenly-rich young vulgarian, who happens to be in Carlton's rooms, reveals the woman's hiding place. The three principals are brought face to face with a difficult situation. A sacrifice of either happiness or reputation is inevitable. The decision to save their good names at the expense of love and Lady Mabel leaves the room on the arm of Pontefract to make ready for her wedding with him, which will be suitable in the eyes of the world. The old theme is rather skillfully treated in Mr. Wood's play and the audience was pleased with it. The cast was as follows:

Richard Carlton Earn Collins
Lord Wilfred Pontefract Harry M. Goldberg
Horatio Parr Melville Jeffery
Wills George H. Nichols
Lady Mabel Wendover Madeline Dallas

Melville Jeffery, as Horatio Parr, gave a capital impersonation. He brought out the unpleasing characteristics of the typical cad in striking fashion indeed. Earn Collins was not an attractive nor an impressive Carlton. George H. Nichols was almost above reproach in his acting of the role of Wills, an honest butler, and Harry M. Goldberg played Pontefract very acceptably. Madeline Dallas was a beautiful and at times a very appealing Lady Mabel.

All of the plays were mounted handsomely, and the stage management, as usual, was excellent.

LAKYAYE FOR THE PRICE OF PEACE.

Wilton Lakyaye has been engaged by Jacob Litz for a season's work at the Earl of Hereford, Prince of Wales Theatre, in *The Price of Peace*, with W. J. Brady. Mr. Lakyaye relinquishes the role of Uncle Tom at the Academy matinee. This completes the cast of *The Price of Peace*. Rehearsals began yesterday, and the opening is expected to occur March 20.

GOSSIP OF THE TOWN.



Photo by Stern, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Above is a recent portrait of Lisle Leigh, who is now playing the lead Lisle Martel, in *Keeping the Whirlwind*. The part is one requiring much emotional power, and Miss Leigh has achieved an emphatic success in it. The critic of the Rochester *Union and Advertiser* said that Miss Leigh's work proved her to be one of the best emotional actresses of today. He could find no criticism with her acting and praised her delightful manner and her remarkable reserve power. Miss Leigh is admirably versatile and in stock work in character parts and other cities has been very successful. She is seen in *Keeping the Whirlwind* at the Hippo Theatre, Brooklyn, this week. Her plans for the summer are not settled.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. John F. Harley (Jean McIlmoyne) at Denver, Col., recently.

Maud Sinclair was specially engaged to play Barbara Haze in East Lynne at the Amphion, Brooklyn, last week. She took the part at short notice and secured favorable comment from the press, although another actress was cast for the part on the programme.

W. T. Hodge, of James A. Herne's company, who has been ill with typhoid fever at the Hannemann Hospital, Philadelphia, since Feb. 16, is convalescent and left March 16 for his home at Rochester, N. Y., to remain there until he is able to resume his role. Mr. Hodge hopes this will be soon, as he is away behind with his painting in Sag Harbor.

Marie Dressler entertained her company at Montreal March 5 by taking them thirty in all on a long sleigh ride into the country. A stop was made at a hotel on the way for luncheon and a dance. Every one had a jolly time.

James T. Kiernan took the role of Tweed-punch in Florodora at the Casino without rehearsal Friday night, on account of W. J. Ferguson's illness with the grip. He was congratulated on his performance.

Among those who witnessed Hennessey Le Roy's performance of *Other People's Money* at Quincy, Ill., last Monday night, was a box party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Doney, I. N. Morris, author of *The Rival Candidates*, and Mrs. H. Weens. After the performance the party was entertained by Mr. Weens, with Mr. Le Roy as guest of honor.

Maude Galloway is ill with acute gastritis at her residence here, and Pearl Stillson is playing her role in *The Giddy Throng* at the New York.

The employees of the New York gave a ball at Murray Hill Lyceum March 7.

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. William Faversham, 299 West Fifty-second street, was sold by Mrs. Faversham last week.

Carl A. Haswin, assisted by Frances R. Haswin, will make an elaborate revival of *The Silver King* for the Spring season, opening in Brooklyn March 18.

The scenery, costumes and properties for the production of *The Fortune Teller*, by the Alice Nielsen opera company, at the Shaftesbury Theatre, London, are being made in England.

Are You a Mason, Leo Dietrichstein's adaptation of the German farce, Lodge Brothers, will be produced at the Boston Museum, April, by a cast including Mr. Dietrichstein, John C. Rice, Thomas A. Wise, George Richards, Esther Tittel, May Robinson, Sally Cohen, and Nellie Butler.

Richard Kershaw Neill has retired from the cast of *Junice Meredith* in order to begin rehearsals in *Miss Bob White*.

Corse Payton was enjoined last week, on application of Charles Frohman, from presenting a play under the title of *L'Aiglon*.

Mrs. Helen Well read Charles Henry Miltzer's version of Schumann's *Lieders* at the New York College of Music, March 5.

Mabel Hite, of *The Telephone Girl*, and Edward F. Hamlin, non-professional, of Chicago, were married at Salt Lake City March 2.

Joseph Jefferson lectured on "The Philosophy of Acting" at Palm Beach, Fla., March 5.

Mrs. George Edmunds White will give a dramatic recital at the Waldorf Astoria to-day (Tuesdays). She will be assisted by Frances Grandt and William Francis Parsons.

James Sullivan, Lila Snyder, Claudine Sharp, and Mattie Symonds, who have been appearing in *The Casino Girl* in London, sailed for New York March 6.

John F. Garraway, formerly well known as a manager, is at the Memorial Hospital in this city.

John P. Misker, of Reading, Pa., is organizing a revival of *Helene Easton*, Allentown, Reading, Lancaster, Wilkes-Barre, and Williamsport, Pa., and Wilmington, Del.

August Strindberg, the Norwegian dramatist, and Marie E. Foss, the actress, are engaged to be married. Mr. Strindberg is the author of a number of plays, novels and poems, which have become famous in Norway, Sweden and Germany. Only one of his plays, *The Father*, has been translated into the English.

A Jewish version of *Trilby* will be presented at the People's Theatre, with Mr. and Mrs. Shmoolesky in the leading roles, on the evening of March 21. The occasion will be a subscription for the advertising agent of the theatre.

William Richards, kind of a *Hamlet*, at the Lyceum, received a much-needed rest at Taunton, Mass.

Thomas W. Smith, of the Lyceum, will open his *Shakespeare* at the Lyceum, March 18.

The *Price of Peace* is a very successful play, and the cast is very good. The opening is expected to occur March 20.

THE NEW YORK DRAMATIC MIRROR

(ESTABLISHED JAN. 4, 1876)

The Origin of the American Theatrical Profession

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HARRISON GREY FISKE,
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Foreign subscription, \$5.00 per annum, postage prepaid.

Telephone number, 621 26th Street.

Registered cable address, "Dramatic."

The Dramatic Mirror is sold in London at Pall Mall American Exchange, Carlton St., Regent St.; Anglo-American Exchange, 3 Northumberland Ave., Trafalgar Sq. In Paris, at Boudin's, 15 Avenue de l'Opera. In Sydney, Australia, Swan & Co., Moore St. The Trade supplied by all News Companies.

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Entered at the New York Post Office as Second-Class Matter.

NEW YORK - - - - - MARCH 16, 1901.

Largest Dramatic Circulation in the World.

COMMERCIAL EXPEDIENTS.

THE devices of managers committed to the methods natural to the commercializing of the stage are attracting wide attention, as comments from authoritative newspapers republished in THE MIRROR show.

One of the most striking developments of the prevailing system is the manufacture of "stars." Of course there are few that will blame the superficially popular young man of meagre experience or the handsome young woman who may have been graduated but yesterday from a dramatic school for accepting fortune at its apparent flood and making the most of the seeming complaisance of managers that force such young persons ahead of their artistic growth for selfish reasons.

The managers who "star" young players prematurely care nothing for the artistic futures of such players. The managers are "showmen" with the mercantile idea. They believe that pretense with the public stands for much, and they make pretentious efforts in which the young man or the young woman that figures as a star is but an instrument. The young player is projected out of natural focus and in advance of natural growth with the idea that elaborate accessories will hide the real nature of the enterprise; and beyond this the manager knows that the young player can be handled with greater ease, and that the satisfaction of crude ambition and vanity will permit the manager to absorb the lion's share of profit.

But it is with dramatic art as it is with all other art. Reaction against the fictitious and the meretricious is inevitable. And the results of untimely "starring" upon the young player fooled to the top of his or her bent by specious and selfish management is bound to be deplorable. The young player is apt to form a false idea of his or her actual importance in the economy of the theatre, and fondly and foolishly to imagine that the hard work that others find necessary for success has by some favorable dispensation been eliminated in his or her case. To cultivate this erroneous idea is to join the hands of vanity and indolence, and the victim, instead of riding on a special wave of prosperity to the harbor of fame, sooner or later comes to artistic shipwreck.

But little different from the premature "star" is the "star" in whose preparation another method, eventually quite as fatal, is employed. This second sort of "star" is manufactured with greater care, but the trade-mark is ineradicable. A clever, persistent and indefatigable master of theatrical craft takes a man or a woman that can be taught to speak the lines of a part so as to produce certain effects, and to do certain things in keeping with the lines. As to the lines this is mere parroting, and as to the business of the lines it is mere acrobatics. But it is wonderful to witness the results that a master of this method can produce with the right material. They seemingly are so veritable that even in New York they have deceived the critical elect for the moment. Yet a man or a woman trained in this manner is no more an artist than a person that has taken a step or two on a definite road is a traveler.

Take the most accomplished of the "stars" of this sort, of whom there are several, and in a round of even commonplace characters without assistance they would be as unworked clay. Such a player is like an effigy hewn from insensate stuff, and the only credit due for the performance of such a one should go to the person that fashions the raw material.

There is in all dramatic history record of but one or two persons that have succeeded notably as actors without infinite preliminary work. One of these was GARRICK, of whom it is not necessary to say that his intelligence was phenomenal, or that he would have succeeded in almost any walk of life. To realize the labor that introduced success to CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN or EDWIN FORREST, great figures in their day, would frighten many a novice from a stage career. And no great player of to-day of any nation can say that his or her eminence is the result of anything more certainly than of hard work in a multitude of parts. Sir HENRY IRVING played a thousand roles before he was recognized in London as a great actor. And no enduring fame can come to the player expediently projected or superficially trained or parroted and specially molded for a single part unless that player industriously builds anew on a basis of original intelligence, and traverses that dramatic labyrinth that enforces varied experience and breathes artistic diversity.

"CREATION."

IN a new book by ALFRED AYRES, entitled "Some Ill-Used Words," advance sheets of which THE MIRROR has been privileged to see, that orthopaedic and verbal authority, in the vigorous style for which he has become noted, handles among others one solecism of which many members of the dramatic profession are steadily guilty. Using as a text a paragraph stating that "The leading part of TIMMENDORF will be created by the leading comedian of the Irving Place Theatre, GUSTAV VON SEYFFERTITZ"—the paragraph evidently having been taken from a daily newspaper—Mr. AYRES says, with some acerbity:

We have here an example of a nauseous exudation of the vanity of the player folk that occasionally gets into print. If Herr von SEYFFERTITZ is the "creator" of TIMMENDORF, what is the author of the play of which TIMMENDORF is a part? Commonly, very little discretion is allowed these "creators" of parts. They must, as a rule, play as author and stage-manager direct. THE DRAMATIC MIRROR never uses *create* as it is used in the sentence above; it uses *originate*, which, however, is not very much better, since there is little difference in the signification of the two words. Until recently, an actor that was first to play a part was said to be the original so and so. FORREST, for example, was said to be the original JACK CADE. To express the thought absolutely, we should have to use the locution, the first to play.

Mr. AYRES, in his peculiar enthusiasms, sometimes wields a sledge when a simple hammer of ordinary size would accomplish his purpose. His process differs somewhat from that of breaking a butterfly on the wheel, although his energy sometimes is out of proportion to the task he sets himself at. Something of his fame, perhaps, however, is due to his resounding method, and it may be said of him that, although he directs fierce blows at things that more moderate effort would correct, his aim never is affected by what would seem to be temper, and his score on the target of popular and professional error shows a very high percentage of bullseyes.

As Mr. AYRES, besides being a critic of acting, among other things, is an actor himself, and presumably is himself afflicted with something of that vanity the foregoing particular exudation of which he characterizes as "nauseous," this specific preface to his corrective argument would seem to be a little unkind, as well as a little on the verge of the subject kernel.

THE MIRROR, nevertheless, holds mainly with Mr. AYRES in this matter. The actor is not the "creator" of a character unless he is the author of the character. There is not at the moment at hand anything like proof as to the origin of this erroneous designation of the work of a first actor in a part. There is no doubt that it has been and often is used by actors in a spirit of vanity, just as flattering words in the terminology of any art—whether the words are properly used or not—are fondly employed by those that practice the art. Calling an actor that first appears in a part the "creator" of the part may have had its origin in the writing of some well-meaning but ignorant critic; but as to its quick adoption by the profession there can be no question. It is not only erroneous—it is absurd. An actor impersonates, or interprets, or represents, or embodies a character, but, as said before, he does not create the character unless he writes the play in which it appears.

It may be asserted, however, that while the foregoing statement is true in general application, there is something to be said

in favor of the actor and his "vanity" in certain cases; for it often happens that a clever player will so improve upon or enlarge or elaborate a minor character as really to give it a new being; and there have been cases where authors in gratitude have complimented actors upon their work in thus increasing the value of characters beyond the authors' dreams of possibility. But in all essentials, in the cases of notable characters, the author is the creator; and in the greater characters of the drama—particularly those of SHAKESPEARE—this is so patent a fact that the most gifted of actors always have failed and always will fail of perfect or ideal embodiment.

THE ACTORS' ORDER CELEBRATION.

On Sunday evening the Edwin Forrest Lodge, Actors' Order of Friendship, celebrated the ninety-fifth anniversary of the birth of the great tragedian whose name it bears, in the home of the organization in Forty-seventh Street. From eight o'clock until after midnight the rooms were thronged with members and their guests, numbering upward of a hundred; and, as is the custom at all social gatherings held by the order, congeniality and informality dominated the occasion. During the evening nearly every one of the representative men present contributed to the entertainment, and altogether it was one of the pleasantest affairs of its kind in the history of the lodge.

There was an added, and perhaps, a melancholy, interest in the event, in so much as it was the last birthday celebration that the lodge will hold in its present quarters. For seven years the house in Forty-seventh Street has been the home of the society. Many new members have been initiated there; many kindly and charitable plans have been discussed within its walls; many times have the brothers gathered there to make merry, and on other occasions they have come together there to pay their last tribute of friendship to one of their number who has passed away. The new Colonial Theatre will soon be erected upon the property now occupied by the house, and its stage will probably cover the ground now inclosed by the four walls of the present building. The celebration on Sunday night was a fitting farewell of the lodge to its home.

President Milton Nobles, who presided, expressed in manner as well as in words the sentiment of the occasion. He was in his happiest mood, and was indeed, an ideal presiding officer. Each speaker was introduced by him in most graceful fashion, and his own impromptu speeches were among the most entertaining of the evening. Naturally and appropriately, many anecdotes of Edwin Forrest were related by one and another of the speakers. Mr. Nobles spoke of the eminent tragedian's vast human sympathy as he had seen it displayed when playing in Mr. Forrest's support, in the closing scene of *Virginia*; and he also told a number of stories that proved Mr. Forrest's kindness of feeling toward young and nervous players.

The chief guest of the evening, whom every man present delighted to honor, was James Booth Roberts, the oldest American actor, and a member of Shakespeare Lodge, of Philadelphia. Mr. Roberts made a delightful, characteristic address, in which he compared the old days of the drama with the new, and at the close of the evening he recited, with marvelous force and brilliancy, two familiar poems—"Asleep at the Switch" and "The Benediction."

Maylon Pickering, president of the Philadelphia lodge, delivered, in a genial little speech, the greetings of the parent lodge to the Edwin Forrest Lodge. These two lodges constitute the entire body of the Actors' Order of Friendship.

F. F. Mackay, whose fame as a polished impromptu speaker has long been abreast of his fame as an actor, called attention to the interesting and hitherto unpublished fact that the late Colonel Richard Penn Smith, whose estate on Staten Island has been purchased for the site of the Actors' Fund Home, was in his early years a dramatist, and one of his plays was produced by Edwin Forrest, in Philadelphia.

Mr. Mackay told two unfamiliar anecdotes of Mr. Forrest—one illustrative of his sense of humor, the other of his justice. "It fell to my lot," said Mr. Mackay, "to be one of two players selected to carry Mr. Forrest from center stage to the wings in the course of action of one of the plays presented by him during an engagement in Boston. My fellow traveler was not a strong man, and I, though muscular, was a stripling in appearance. Mr. Forrest had his doubts of our ability to carry him. However, on the night, I got a firm grip on the great tragedian—great physically as well as artistically—and bore him successfully off stage. When we got safely in the wings Mr. Forrest looked me up and down, with an amused smile, and exclaimed, 'By Heaven, that's what I call heavy business!'

"During the closing years of his career," continued the speaker, "Mr. Forrest was so weak at times that to escape the exertion of going to his dressing room between scenes, he used to sit in the wings, and, when the action of the play permitted, he tried me to sit and chat with him. One evening he said to him: 'Mr. Forrest, have you heard the news from England?' 'No,' said he, 'what is it?' 'Macready,' said I, 'is dead!' 'Macready dead,' repeated Mr. Forrest thoughtfully, and then, in a voice trembling with emotion, he exclaimed: 'By God, sir, he was the greatest actor of them all!'

Louis Aldrich, in response to enthusiastic calls, mounted the platform and delivered a characteristic speech about the work of the Actors' Fund. Carl Ahrendt spoke feelingly of the several of the stage celebrities of the past whom he had known, and Eben Plympton recited "Bohemian" in his usual magnetic fashion.

Dr. Hartley, of the *Clipper*, made a very delightful speech, in which he told the players present of the pleasure that it gives the honest critic to praise, and of the pain it causes him to blame. He also spoke of the existing copyright laws and urged that no stone be left unturned in the work of improving them.

Charles Barnard talked impressively and entertainingly of the efforts of the Dramatists' Club to have laws passed to protect dramatic authors, and he reminded the players that they as well as the authors would profit by these laws, since by stopping play piracy more unprincipled and irresponsible management is also stopped.

Charles Henry Meltzer spoke earnestly in behalf of the plays of Hauptmann and the other authors of the modern German school. These plays, he prophesied, will some day find more favor on the American stage than they do at the present time.

During the evening songs were sung and recitations given by Jack Lester, Bertram Godfrey, Augustus P. Thomas, Victor Moore, George Martin, and Frank F. Ranta.

Among those present beside those already mentioned were Frank Oakes Rose, Bernard Edmund, George D. Macintyre, William Courtleigh, Edward Edgett, Horace Lewis, Hudson Liston, Wright Huntington, J. J. Spies, George Lusk, Colonel T. Alston Brown, George Barr, Brigham Royce, Mortimer Snow, Joseph Webster, Robert T. Haines, Charles Klein, Charles Dickson, Henry Simon, and Eugene Sanger.

M. DESCHAMPS' LECTURES.

Gaston Deschamps, literary critic of the Paris *Temps*, ended his series of lectures at Sanders' Theatre, Cambridge, Mass., last week. On March 6 he spoke on "The Heroic Drama," that had its beginning, M. Deschamps said, in the songs of the wandering troubadours of the middle ages, wherein the prowess of some knight was sung. For the present day renewal of idealism in the

drama the lecturer gave most credit to Francois Coppée and Henri de Bornier. He described in detail Coppée's *For the Crown* and De Bornier's *The Daughter of Roland*. In conclusion he paid tribute to M. Deschamps' genius, but declared him too well known to need comment.

The last lecture, on March 8, dealt with "The Future of the French Drama." In it M. Deschamps described the drama's evolution, and its inclination to accuracy in its picturing of life. He predicted that, with a continuance of realism, as well as a return to the heroic, it would become a leading factor in social progress. M. Deschamps will lecture in this city, before Columbia University, this week.

MUSIC NOTES.

The Marquis de Souza has abandoned his concert tour of this country, that did not meet with pecuniary success owing to bad management, the Marquis declares.

Josef Hofmann made his American reappearance in a recital at Carnegie Hall March 5.

The fourth of the People's Symphony Concerts, Franz X. Arons, conductor, will be given at Cooper Union Hall March 15. Mackenzie Gordon, tenor, will be the soloist.

The seventh public rehearsal of the Philharmonic Society took place at Carnegie Hall March 8. Hugo Becker, cellist, was the soloist.

David Bispham gave a song recital at Carnegie Hall March 8.

The New York Boy Symphony Orchestra gave an agreeable concert at the Herald Square Sunday night. The soloists were Maudie Courtney, Madame Selma, Audington Brooke, and Francis Sabatino.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

[No replies by mail. No attention paid to anonymous, impertinent or irrelevant queries. No private addresses furnished. Letters addressed to members of the profession care of THE MIRROR will be forwarded.]

1. J. E. New York: I. Hogan of the *Hanson*, played in vaudeville by Walter Leroy and Florance Clayton, was written by George M. Cohan.

2. A. C. New York city: None of the plays written by George H. Broadhurst have been published in book form.

3. L. Philadelphia: 1. THE MIRROR knows of no company playing *The Banker's Ruin*. 2 and 3. Your meaning is not clear in these questions.

4. D. and H. Petrolen, Ont.: The addresses you ask are T. H. Winnett, 1402 Broadway; Broadhurst Brothers, 1441 Broadway; A. Q. Scammon, Thirty-eighth Street and Broadway, New York city.

GRANT FOREMAN, Chambersburg, Pa.: Write to Richardson and Foss, the Empire Job Print, or the A. S. Seer Print, whose addresses appear in the advertising columns of THE MIRROR.

K. Q. Newark, N. J.: 1. Richard Mansfield was born in Heliogoland. 2. Sud Smith Russell played two roles in *The Hidden Hand*, his first legitimate engagement. 3. Una Abell made her debut with Madame Khea in Josephine.

BRADDER, Rock Island, Ill.: 1. Copyrights for England and the British colonies must be entered at Stationers' Hall, London. 2. The market price of music in England is relatively the same as in this country.

H. L.: The Columbia Theatre, San Francisco, was opened as such May 13, 1895, with the Frailty company in *Sweet Lavender*. The last two attractions that played the house under its former name, Stockwell's Theatre, were *Cad*, the Tomboy, and the J. K. Emmet company.

J. M. TAYLOR, New York city: 1. Durwin Rudd appeared with John Drew in *The Liars* season of 1898-99. 2. Mildred Holland is playing *Aria* in *The Power Behind the Throne*. 3. Ralph Kellard is not a member of Viola Allen's company. 4. The "g" in *Anglin* is hard.

B. B. New York city: 1. Annie Russell played Sue in *Dangerfield* 35 in London in 1898. 2. The original cast of *Esmeralda*, produced at the Madison Square Theatre, New York, Oct. 18, 1891, was: Albert Rogers, Leslie Allen; Lydia Ann, Kate Dean Wilson; Esmeralda, Annie Russell; Dave Hardy, Eben Plympton; Estabrook, Thomas Whiffen; Jack Desmond, E. A. McDowell; Nora Desmond, Agnes Booth; Kate Desmond, May Gallagher; Marquis de Montsain, Pavement Rebus; George Drew, Edwin Knowles; Sophie, Clara Hyatt. 3. It was shortly before the production of *Esmeralda* that Miss Russell made her trip to the West Indies.

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WHEN BUCKINGHAM MET THE QUEEN. By F. S. Hoffman.

THE PLAYERS' CHRONOLOGY.

March.

11. William Davidge, Jr., born, Manchester, England, 1847.

Debut of Gertrude Argyle, Washington, 1861.

Samuel Cowell died, Blanford, England, 1864.

12. Actors' Fund of America founded, 1862.

The Iron Chest produced, Drury Lane, London, 1796.

Debut of Mary Devlin, Troy, N. Y., 1864.

Mrs. D. P. Bowers born, Stamford, Conn., 1830.

Last appearance of Edmund Kean, Drury Lane, London, 1833.

13. Thomas Betterton died, London, 1710.

J. K. Emmet born, St. Louis, 1841.

Debut as an actress of Marietta Ravel, Pittsburg, 1855.

14. John T. Ford died, Baltimore, 1894.

15. M. Julien died, Paris, 1869.

Harvey Leach died, 1847.

James H. Hackett born, New York, 1809.

16. William Felly born, Boston, 1795.

Debut of Maggie Dayley, San Francisco, 1864.

17. Debut of Cecile Rush, Philadelphia, 1856.

Thomas A. Becker born, Chatham, England, 1808.

Rosalie Felly born, Kinderhook, N. Y., 1793.

18. Debut of Marie Dorot, Philadelphia, 1850.

Morris Barnett died, Montreal, 1856.

19. Augustus A. Adams died, Cincinnati, 1851.

Debut of Rosa Rand, Sacramento, 1868.

THE THEATRICAL TRUST

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THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS.

Tony Pastor's.

The week's bill is headed by Nat M. Wills and includes O'Brien and Havel, Gardner Brothers, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Barry, Silver and Emerle, Harry Thomson, Brothers Abner, Hogan and Bacon, Sheridan and Forrest, Sisters Miller, Frank and Gladden, Tommy and Laura Harris, Emline and Metz, and the vitagraph.

Keith's Union Square.

The August Family make their first local appearance in vaudeville, and the rest include Rice and Cohen, Johnstone Bennett, Two Andrusians, American Comedy Four, John Geiger, O'Brien, Jennings, and O'Brien, Wilson and Leicester, Adelina Rottino, Three Roosevelts, Mosher Trio, the art studios, and the biograph.

Proctor's Twenty-third Street.

Frederic Bond and company revive Willard Holcomb's Her Last Rehearsal. Lydia Yeaman, Titus, aided by Fred J. Titus, Willis P. Sweatnam, Ward and Curran, The Bachelor Club, Soto Sumetaro, and Dupree and Dupree are the others.

Proctor's Fifth Avenue.

Madame Butterfly is in its fourth week, along with Pete Baker, Gertrude Mansfield and Caryl Wilbur in A Bird and a Bottle, Eddie Girard and Jessie Gardner in The Automobile Girl, George Hammersmith, Alcide Capitaine, Binns and Binns, Falarido, May Casta, and others.

Proctor's Palace, Fifty-eighth Street.

The bill is headed by James and Marie Finney, and includes the Funigomoto Japs, Jane Courthope and Charles Forrester, Globe Comedy Four, Bell and De Vaux, Arminta, Mattie Lockette, Ed. Evans, and Sophie Burnham.

Proctor's 125th Street.

The programme offers Wilmer and Vincent, the Seven Reed Birds, Zelma Rawlston, Willis Family, J. S. Burdette, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Keaton, Signor Barbaretto, Julia Ralph, Little and Fritz-kow, and Smith and Powell.

Koster and Bial's.

The White Rats again conduct the bill that presents this week Lafayette, James J. Morton, Kelly and Ashby, Howard and Hand, Josephine Sabel, Stine and Evans, Williams and Adams, Smith, Doty, and Coe, Maud Meredith, the Far-ays, Agnes Mahr, Rose Edythe, and Henry Lee.

Weber and Fields.

The stock company continue in Fiddle-Dee-Dee, and the business is still of the great big sort that discourages all thoughts of supplanting the present burlesque.

New York.

The Giddy Throng, After Office Hours, The March of Old Glory, and the interpolation vaudeville numbers, along with the big cast of the stock company, make up the bill of the week.

Hurtig and Seamon's.

Adelaide Hermann heads the list, which shows Julia Kingsley, Harmony Four, Harry Le Clair, Four Collins, Miles and Raymond, Bellman and Moore, Arthur Stone, and Parker's dogs.

THE BURLESQUE HOUSES.

DEWEY.—A Wise Guy looks in this week for the first time here in a burlesque house. In the cast, headed by Edmund Hayes, are Ray L. Royce, Moreland, Thompson and Roberts, Adèle Palmer, Louise Montrose, Raymond Finlay, Katherine Hayes, Jean Cunningham, Alice Lorraine, Lillie Tedwyn, Doherty Sisters, and Reno and Richards.

MINER'S BOWERY.—Abe Leavitt's Bentz Santley company, led by Lottie Elliott, have moved over from the Eighth Avenue for the week.

LONDON.—T. W. Dinkins' Vagabonds furnish the week's delectation.

MINER'S EIGHTH AVENUE.—The American Beauties are beautifying the sunset side of town.

OLYMPIC.—May Howard and her company will attend to the uptown section this week.

LAST WEEK'S BILLS.

KOSTER AND BIAL'S.—Perhaps the best regular bill of the season was that put up by the White Rats of America, to whom the house had been turned over for a week. There were fifteen top-notch acts and the performance that began about eight did not get out till after midnight. No man on earth could say which act scored heaviest since all were sure winners and all went accordingly. George Fuller Golden led the march with his latest monologue and got away with his usual bit to the strength of which was added wild enthusiasm about him personally as the president of the Rats. It seemed as if everybody in the house knew all about the Rats' war and sided heartily with the battling artists. Tom Lewis and Sam J. Ryan contributed their extraordinary sketch that went hilariously, of course, the special scoring being done by a parody of the famous "I Am a Buffalo." Mr. Grapewin's "I Took the Heavy Part" was that deal with the Rats' case and changed the lines "But the manager took the money and we haven't seen him since" to read "But the managers took the 5 per cent. and they haven't seen us since." This brought down the sympathetic house with mighty applause. Charles E. Grayson and Anna Chance hit them prodigiously as always in Above the Limit, one of the brightest spots of the week being when Mr. Grapewin lifted a wine glass with his right hand and a big voice from an upper box shouted "Are you a Buffalo?" Mr. Grapewin promptly changed the glass to his left hand and didn't dare to use his right again. Dorothy Morton was highly successful in some most happily selected and charmingly rendered songs. Bert Coote and

company offered A Supper for Two with the customary joyousness, honors being fairly shared by the young woman of the cast, who gave a capital performance, although her name did not appear on the bills. Mr. Coote was as impressively ludicrous as ever and the act was a continual laugh. Charles Wayne and Anna Caldwell scored the same old hit in George M. Cohan's To Boston on Business, which seems to grow even funnier by repetition. Bobby Taylor rattled off his regulation Irish comedy with great success. Georgia Gardner and Joseph Madden ran in high favor with Too Many Darlings, which again proves exceedingly amusing and uncommonly well played. Zeno, Carl and Zeno did their fine bar act to much applause. Little Carl putting in some new trapeze work at the finish that earned an ovation. Eleanor Fink and her Eight Pansies (terse) "Eight Lilies" went nicely, only if the lilies are to be known henceforth as "pansies," it might be fair to repaint the present lily scenery, which seems a bit out of key. But the "lilies" by any other name go just as well. Other big scorers were Carrie Graham, the American Quartette, John W. Early, and Rixford Brothers. The bill was closed by a new Kiraity ballet, The Birth of the Flowers, in which Agnes Mahr made a pronounced hit in some very clever and exceptionally neat grotesque toe dancing. Rose Edythe assisted ably in conventional ballet work, but her other dancers were hardly up to the mark, and the way in which they were permitted to walk on and off as they pleased rather spoiled the picture. Business was simply enormous, standing room was at a premium, and one attendant Kat, who remarked that people were hanging from the chandeliers hardly exaggerated it. Sam Bernard acted as manager for his brother Rats.

KEITH'S UNION SQUARE.—M. B. Curtis, assisted by Albina Bell, played Herbert Hall Winslow's sketch, Sam! at the Herald Square Hotel, for the first time here and did not set the house on fire. The sketch is none too good, only brightening up in random spots, and it has a very weak and hopeless finish. Mr. Curtis impersonated two brothers of the Hebrew brew, one fairly well, and the other with an unsightly make-up that was most uncomfortable to see. Miss Le Mar acted a French woman with considerable skill and vivacity and wore some amazing gowns. The series of Art Studies continued with the customary popularity, one or two new tableaux adding to the show of favor. Once more the pictures in which real animals posed stole away the chief applause. Willis P. Sweatnam made a very large-sized hit with a wonderfully clever monologue, nearly all brand new. None of the countless persons, however clever, that has tried to imitate Mr. Sweatnam's irresistibly comic style has ever gotten within ten miles of it, and it must be pleasing to one of his originality to know that he has developed something that needs no copyright to prevent its being copied. Maude Courtney, the sweet singer of the songs our mothers sang, earned no end of applause for her charming act. She opened with "When the Birds Go North Again," one of the prettiest ballads of the season, followed with her old songs, and wound up with a new song that only went because she sang it. There is no daintier, more graceful act in vaudeville than hers and audiences are quick to let her know they think so, too. Johnson and Dean made a hit in their songs and dances. Hale and Francis did pleasing club-singing and hoop-rolling. The Empire Comedy Quartette entertained in good old quartette fashion, the Haiduburn Family danced cleverly, and Lorea Grimm offered some very unhappy juvenile specialties rather on the order of Charlie Rossow's, only not the same. The others were Le Roy and Le Vanion, Frank Chamberlin, Reed and Shaw, Hank Whitcomb, De Rigny Sisters, Doyle and Granger, Frank Cotton's dogs, Kano's terriers, the stereopticon and the biograph, which had some new and telling views. Business, good.

TONY PASTOR'S.—Cawthorne and Forrester led the dance in their familiar sketch, A Damage Suit, which drew forth its accustomed share of approbation. Lew Sully made his Pastor debut and at once established himself as a favorite with the clients. His black-face monologue is hugely funny, the material is nearly all good, and his rapid style of work is not excelled by any one in his field. Especially popular were his parodies, which contained many bright lines. He was sung with keenest humor. Hickey and Nelson scored an immense hit in their grotesque acrobatic act which returned to greater applause even than on its first appearance here. Mr. Hickey's long-chance acrobatics and his capital make-up came in for hearty endorsement. Petching Brothers put in a neat musical comedy turn that went well. The principal novelties are an arbor covered with roses that turn out to be sweet-toned bells, and a row of potted plants that develop into an octave of electric bells. John Le Clair juggled admirably, as he always does; Josie and Willie Barrow were dancing in songs and dances; Sophie Burnham sang, tunefully, and the rest were Barney and Kelly, Sisters Bernard, Hoffman and Maurice, Clifford and Hall, Saville and Stuart, Amos, and the vitagraph. Business was regulated only by the capacity.

PROCTOR'S FIFTH AVENUE.—Madame Butterfly played its third week as the top-line attraction and Valerie Bergere repeated her superb performance in the title role. Miss Bergere's work grows even more delightful when one sees it again and again, and the spontaneous applause that greets her attests the high esteem in which she is held by her audiences. Claude Gillingwater once more scored by his absolutely natural impersonation of the consul, and the others of the cast were acceptable. David Belasco's fine production came in for its usual favor. Lucille Saunders, the operatic contralto, made her vaudeville debut and sang three songs in excellent style. She has a truly magnificent voice, which she uses with perfect skill, but her work is hardly adapted to the vaudeville stage and her selections were quite unhappy. Adelaide Hermann revived the pantomime trick sketch, The Artist's Dream, with telling effect, giving her customary dainty, picturesque performance and being ably assisted by a number of people. The Bachelor Club, Robert Pollard, George Brenzel, Henry Gunson, and J. Duke Jaxone, made a prodigious success in their clever sketch by George W. Barnum. Both as actors and singers they are deservedly popular, and the sketch is a refreshing departure from conventional quartette methods. Julia Ralph contributed a neat monologue that was heartily applauded. The Brothers Kennard, of quite some fame, though occasionally rather tame, substituted while the comic brother put up a really funny pantomime. James S. Eardley, one of the best of the young entertainers, told some stories of his own in a manner better

adapted to the platform than to the stage. The same comment applies to the baritone solos of Arthur Barry. George Mack and company presented with success a playlet by Katherine Stagg. The Globe Comedy Four repeated their depressing turn seen the week before at the Twenty-third Street. Tom Mack, Mabel Mastland, the kaleidoscope and the travel views filled out the bill.

PROCTOR'S TWENTY-THIRD STREET.—The bill was headed by a one-act arrangement of the once popular melodrama, The Stowaway, put on by Thomas H. Davis and played by W. H. Sadler, Pickering Brown, E. L. Irving, Joseph Mitchell, Libbie Kirke, and Virginia Russell. This affair ran about a half hour and was done three times a day. It was very, very bad. The safe-breaking scene was the one weak and, of course, this did away with the meaning of the title and whatever of merit there had been in the old play was carefully omitted. It was almost impossible to guess what it was all about, and the acting was no better than the version. The stage-management, too, was deplorable, especially in the matter of the lights, which were bungled tremendously. The two "reformed cracksmen, Spike Hennessy and Kid McCoy," as per programme, turned out to be a double and a property man. People will go to vaudeville to see excellent short plays like Madame Butterfly, but they are apt to steer away when confronted by such a The Stowaway. Wilmer and Vincent, capably assisted by Kenyon Bishop, offered their bright sketch, A Strange Baby, and made the hit of the bill, a particular triumph being scored by their highly intelligent small dog, who is a first-rate comedian. The Seven Reed Birds put in After the Ball and were heartily applauded. The Willis Family presented their neat musical act with success. Kauschie cleverly impersonated many prominent men and won a big laugh when, as Theodore Roosevelt, he fired a pistol off right and a stage hand brought in a couple of animal skins from left. He should use this bit to close the act instead of following it with a conventional impersonation of President McKinley which is a complete let down. The Jeffersons gave a varied and pleasing act, showing smoke pictures, arrow shooting, a song, a rope trick, and a thing like Foo imitation, all well done. Hill and Hull held over in their grotesque acrobatics. Mile. Alma contributed a very pretty posing act, Jessie Burns gave a capital musical turn, and the others were the Four Trumpeters, Etta Williams, Wilson Brothers, the travel views and the kaleidoscope. No records were broken by the business.

PROCTOR'S PALACE.—Johnstone Bennett, assisted by Tony Williams, led the bill in A Quiet Evening at Home, seen a week earlier at the Fifth Avenue. The act scored its customary success and Miss Bennett's assorted impersonations went as well as ever. A thirty-minute version of the once popular farce-comedy, The Hustler, was put on without the cast being billed and did not pan out as an especially inspired production. Davis and Wilson illustrated songs with considerable success. Smith and Powell contributed a good coin sketch, and Soto Sumetaro offered some excellent Japanese magic. Others billed were the American Quartette, H. H. Wiesner, Chalk Saunders, the kaleidoscope, and the travel views.

PROCTOR'S 125TH STREET.—A short arrangement of The Irish Alderman was presented by a first-rate cast including W. L. Gleason, Fred Richter, Harry Gilbert, C. H. Burroughs, H. C. Kearney, Laura Russell, Gilbert Leacock, Myne Burroughs, Lucy Saunders and Clara Gillette. It went very well indeed, and the work of the players was applauded. Gertrude Mansfield and Caryl Wilbur repeated their down town hit of the preceding fortnight in A Bird and a Bottle. Ivan Tschernoff's dogs showed off as successfully as during the week before at the Twenty-third Street, and the other numbers were Raymond and Kirkamp, Bert Sisters, Ramsdell and Arnold, May Casta, the travel views, and the kaleidoscope.

NEW YORK.—The Giddy Throng, with Adele Ritchie replacing Lady Francis Hope, After Office Hours and interpolated vaudeville, entertained very large audiences. Miss Ritchie scored a decided success in her new role and was well received. Improvements are being made daily in the burlesques and people are going again and again. The bill at the lot prices asked for Marwig's new ballet, The March of Old Glory, proved an attractive feature.

WEBER AND FIELDS.—The usual crowds filled the little theatre all the week and enjoyed the stock company's work in Fiddle Dee Dee and the accompanying burlesques. The bill is one of the best ever shown at this famous playhouse and is drawing accordingly.

HURTIG AND SEAMON'S.—The Orpheum Show held this Harlem house and drew large crowds. In the line bill were the Newsky Troupe, Severus Shaffer, Cressy and Dayne, Johnson, Davenport and Lorella, Jack Norworth, William Weston and Ella Herbert.

The Burlesque Houses.

DEWEY.—The Broadway Burlesquers entertained large audiences last week, and the special hits were recorded by Harry Le Clair, Bailey and Madison, Bailey and Milton, Carver and Pillard, and the fine series of living pictures which are a permanent feature of the house bill.

MINER'S BOWERY.—The Oriental Burlesquers gladdened the hearts of East Siders.

LONDON.—The Imperial Burlesquers amused large delegations of Bowditchites.

MINER'S EIGHTH AVENUE.—Abe Leavitt's Bentz-Santley company came back to town and diverted West Side minds.

OLYMPIC.—The Merry Maidens envorted last week in the dolls and dais of Harlem.

FRITZ WILLIAMS AT WEBER AND FIELDS.

Weber and Fields have made arrangements by which Fritz Williams will be a member of their stock burlesque company next season, he being loaned to the music hall managers by Charles Frohman. When Charles J. Ross suddenly left the Weber and Fields company a few months ago on the eve of the production of a new burlesque, Mr. Williams, who happened to be in town at the time, was secured at a moment's notice to play Mr. Ross' part and made a most notable hit. In a few days, though, he had to rejoin a touring company, and the lines were fixed up so that he Wolf Harper could play both his original role and that first tackled by Mr. Williams. But the quick studying Mr. Williams made so much of a success that Weber and Fields sailed in with negotiations for his engagement next season, and it will be up to the two Smiths, Harry B. and Edgar, to deal out appealing roles for the new acquisition in the Autumn productions. Lillian Russell's contract with Weber and Fields will expire in the coming Spring, but assurance is given that it will be renewed, probably for an indefinite period, since both Miss Russell and her managers are so well satisfied with present arrangements.

MAY EDOUN IN VAUDEVILLE.

May Edoun, the clever daughter of Willie Edoun and the late Alice Atherton, will complete on March 30 her twenty weeks' engagement with Florenz at the Casino, and will make her first appearance in vaudeville here on April 1 in a new sketch entitled Venus and Adonis, assisted by Fred Edwards.

FRANCES DRAKE IN VAUDEVILLE.

Frances Drake is about to join the vaudeville ranks, appearing in a new sketch by Frank A. Ferguson entitled The Typewriter and the Cowboy. She will be seen shortly in this city and will continue in vaudeville until opening with the Summer Stock company at Rochester.

THE VAUDEVILLE STRIKE.

A crisis in the war between the White Rats of America and the Association of Vaudeville Managers was reached last Wednesday when, at their headquarters in this city, the long talked about meeting of the members of the Eastern branch of the managers' association. The managers had said that the five per cent. commission, exacted by them upon making engagements and objected to by the White Rats and those in sympathy with them, would probably be abolished at this meeting, but subsequently admitted that its abolition might not go into effect until some time in June. Then the Rats struck, as has been already told in THE MIRROR. Whether or not the managers would have discarded the commission had not the strike occurred is a matter of speculation and, perhaps, beside the point anyhow. Suffice it that, at last Wednesday's meeting, when all the members of the managers' association were either present or represented, it was decided to do away with the commission. It was further determined that it was unfair to discriminate against any particular performers involved in the strike, but that dealings between them and the managers shall be conducted hereafter according to individual merit, and that the White Rats, as an organization, shall not be recognized by the managers.

Thus was practically ended the foremost grievance that had been made prominent as a cause for the Rats' strike. Henry Lee, for the Rats, went to Chicago and came back with an agreement signed by the Western members of the managers' association recognizing the Rats as a body and consenting to accept their bookings. This, of course, was bad news to the Eastern members, who have by all accounts been on none too cheerful terms with their Western brethren for some time. It is not unreasonable to suppose that there may be a split in the association, and that the Eastern and Western men will form separate bodies. Some of the managers from out of town, who came to attend the meeting, promptly went about making contracts with Rats, and these negotiations are said to have been conducted with great secrecy, the formidable documents, it is said, being written sometimes on programme margins, newspaper edges, or cuffs. The Rats were elated by what they regard as a complete victory, and they have gone gaily on with their own managerial enterprises, just to attest the sincerity of their contention that it is possible for them to live without the managers—that people do not go to the theatres to see the manager, nor yet the playhouse, but the actors. On March 6 F. F. Hennessy, manager of the local headquarters of the managers' association, issued the following statement:

The question of abolishing the commission was practically decided in the canvass of the Eastern members on Feb. 8, and so declared to the public as well as the performers, but as the action required a change in the constitution of the association, two days of discussion were necessary before the recommendation of the board could be ratified. There has been a divided sentiment among the managers since the formation of the association respecting the wisdom of abolishing the commission. The action of the performers in requesting that the charge be abolished, simply crystallized and gave impetus to the feeling among many prominent members of the association, that notwithstanding the universal custom and precedent justifying retention of the commission, it was unwise, mainly because of the hostility in the ranks of the managers, to continue it; and it was solely on this account that the Eastern board became a unit in calling the general meeting which occurred to-day.

The unwarranted and unjustifiable action of the performers in violating their contracts and "going on strike" in the hope that they could cripple the managers and compel them to submit to this demand before the date set for the meeting, and the species of intimidation upon the managers and the performers who were willing to work and serve the public, created some feeling in the minds of the members that the performers by their action had forfeited the consideration which the managers had cheerfully accorded them on Feb. 8; but the sentiment of a majority was that, notwithstanding the unjust treatment of the performers, they would keep faith with the public, and that they had declared their intention to abolish the commission.

The question of commissions having been settled, the next matter was a consideration of the attitude which should be taken toward the strikers. The managers felt that the performers who had gone out in the main had been misled and deceived by a few men who sought to make capital for themselves, and that therefore it would be unjust to discriminate against the performers, and a resolution was adopted providing in effect that the association should in no way deal with each individual on his merits and treat him fairly and justly.

The president called attention to the fact that some of the performers were under a misapprehension respecting the position of the association in regard to their contracts and it was felt that in justice to them it should be stated definitely and clearly that the fundamental principles of the association distinctly provide that the association will make no contract with the performers that the making of contracts is solely in the hands of each manager of the association. The association simply served the convenience of the managers and the performers in affording them an opportunity to schedule their route without delay, close their respective contracts, and this being done, the only connection the association had was simply to serve as a clearing house in which the contracts made by individual managers were recorded, the commission having been paid to defray the expenses of the association in affording a joint benefit to manager and performer.

If the association were to enter into the making of contracts, it would create a partnership interest among the members which could not and would not be entertained.

The various members reported to the president that their business was running along smoothly; that having settled the question of commission, there was no other grievance which had any basis in fact, and the feeling was generally expressed that the managers, having kept their promise and abolished the commission, the performers would see the error of the stand they had taken. The strike having been ordered for the declared purpose of forcing the managers to consent of commissions the public will now be in a position to determine the sincerity of their declaration. The managers were a unit in the position that no organization of the performers would be recognized, and adjourned in a spirit of enthusiasm and confidence.

To all of which George Fuller Golden, president of the Rats, replied by saying simply:

We have won our fight. Those managers can put it any way they like, still we have won, not they. They gave their words of honor that they would abolish that percentage nearly a month ago. They did not intend to abolish it until June 3. They did it because they were obliged to. They want that take-off now just as much as ever, but, knowing they cannot get men who are actors or women who are artists to work that way any more, they say they never really did want that 5 per cent.—that \$250,000 a year.

They will not recognize the association as an organization, eh? Well, I guess the public will. The White Rats of America have won, and won clean, the first fight ever won by actors against managers. The men who were ill willed to work as fast as they can get well enough to say they will not recognize any association of managers. They will be honest as individuals with individual managers. They will have an equitable contract now also something they never had before. The Western managers—every one west of Cincinnati—have signed an agreement to abolish the commissions, sign equitable contracts and back through the White Rats' Vaudeville Agency.

The text of the agreement between the Western managers and Henry Lee, representing the White Rats, which is said to have caused no end of consternation and alarm in the halls of the association of managers, is as follows:

Agreement made this sixth day of March, A. D. 1904, between the undersigned Western Managers of the Association of Vaudeville Managers of the one part, and White Rats of America, a voluntary association, of the other part, witnesseth:

That for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements hereinafter expressed, the parties hereto have agreed, and do now agree, as follows:

First, Said Western Managers agree that in no contract made by them on or after March 6, 1904, or any other of their kind, with actors, artists, specialists or other performers, members of said association, shall there appear any provision for commission or other compensation for booking.

Second, The Western Managers further agree that the terms of all contracts hereafter made with members of said association shall be equitable and just to both parties.

Third, Said Western Managers, recognizing the beneficial objects of White Rats of America, agree, so far as possible, to engage performers and make contracts with the members of the association either through its booking agency, or, if preferred, directly with the member desired, or any agent.

And the said White Rats of America, as an association, agrees to use its best efforts to see that every

VAUDEVILLE.

VAUDEVILLE.

VAUDEVILLE.

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*THE PENMAN.*—Maude Odell was a charming Nina Ediston. She played the part of a devoted wife and mother with as much force and feeling as she had presented the detestable character of Carmen. These two characters seem to almost fill the canvas of the mimic art, and it is to the infinite credit of Miss Odell that she is as strong in the one as in the other. But while one can admire her Carmen, one is touched by her quieter and more womanly presentation of Nina Ediston. Miss Odell is an exceptionally clever actress and a charming woman, and few stock companies possess a more competent "leading lady."—*Times Democrat, New Orleans, Feb. 4, 1901.*

**James F. Kelly**

**Dorothy Kent**

Playing the comedy roles and introducing specialty with Chas. E. Wane's new play.

**AN AFRICAN KING.**

**GERTRUDE BERKELEY**

**WHY SMITH LEFT HOME.**—In the original production of the "Cook Lady" of Mrs. Yeomans was the feature of the play and in the local character it is still the character which stands out in relief. Miss Berkeley plays this eccentric role and does it admirably. The red-headed exponent of antonism, as portrayed by her, is original and suffers but little when compared with that of Mrs. Yeomans. Miss Berkeley's Lavina Duly is positively bossy and crafty and her make-up is more strikingly hideous than that of Mrs. Yeomans.—*Kansas City World.*

Mr. Branthorne's face has been seen by Kansas City audiences several times before, but the ludicrous situations bear repeating—especially when Miss Berkeley is Lavina Duly, "secretary of the Cook Ladies' Union."—*Kansas City Star.*

Characters. Woodward Stock Co. Auditorium, Kansas City.

**ALDEN BASS**

**IN A POOR RELATION**

The *Hoboken Observer*, March 1, 1901.—In the character of Noah Vale, the poor, but proud young inventor, Mr. Bass achieved a complete success. He is an artist of the same quiet methods of Sol Smith Russell, his magnetism, facial expression, quaintness of manner and dry sense of humor, making a decided impression on the audience. It was a performance that gave genuine pleasure to the audience, who bestowed upon the star and his support a generous amount of applause. The audience went even further and honored Mr. Alden Bass, the star, by repeatedly recalling him until he was compelled to make a speech.

**Frank Rolleston**

**COL. MARCHAL WEST, LUT'S SHERADOG.**

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